

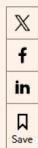
HTSI Food & Drink [+ Add to myFT](#)

Would you drink from a €325 ‘broken’ glass?

Imperfect glassware is all the rage among artisans. We examine the trend, flaws and all



Lobmeyr x Murray Moss Crack glass, €325



Alice Lascelles

Published OCT 7 2025

Unlock the Editor's Digest for free

Roula Khalaf, Editor of the FT, selects her favourite stories in this weekly newsletter.

There's a lot that's enchanting about Muse, the clubby little bar at London's Royal Society for the Arts – the fact you have to ring a bell for entry, the art-lined walls, the thoughtful selection of local spirits. But it's the unusual cocktail glasses that make me do a double-take. Many have rims with droplet-sized indents; chips that been blow-torched smooth. The effect is beautiful in an off-kilter way – almost as if the glasses were melting.

The [Muse](#) team started restoring glassware this way out of necessity, says bartender Marcis Dzelzainis – many of their John Jenkins glasses were getting chipped. But they liked the results so much they decided to make a feature of the flaws. "It's a celebration of imperfection," says Dzelzainis. Manchester cocktail bar [Speak in Code](#) does something similar. "It creates a talking point," says founder Nathan Larkin. "And it's helped us to reduce glass wastage by about 50 per cent."



Imperfect glassware at Muse bar at London's Royal Society for the Arts

“

In Japan, there is a cultural value called *mottainai* that expresses regret over waste

Sokichi CEO Sekiba Kichigoro

lips. “In Japan, there is a cultural value called *mottainai* that expresses regret over waste and emphasises making the most of materials or objects,” explains Sokichi CEO Sekiba Kichigoro. “Throwing away something that is usable causes a sense of loss. We hope customers will think about the situations in which they use the glasses and find the charm – whether as a playful touch or as a conversation piece.”

The Tokyo glass showroom and workshop [Sokichi](#) supplies fine drinkware to top bars in Japan. But among its crammed shelves you will sometimes find vessels with less-than-perfect rims, with chips, and snags and dings that have been polished smooth enough to put to your



Restoring a glass at Speak in Code bar in Manchester



Glasses from the Sydonios Unperfect but Amazing glassware range, available from [flintwines.com](#) from October

Glassmakers are perfectionists – and rejection rates can be staggeringly high. Antoine Schvartz of wineware manufacturer [Sydonios](#) says they used to reject up to 30 per cent of everything they made (these rejects are recycled but, he says, the process is so carbon-hungry “I am reluctant to use the word

Follow the topics in this article

Food & Drink

[+ Add to myFT](#)

Design

[+ Add to myFT](#)

FT Edit

[+ Add to myFT](#)

HTSI

[+ Add to myFT](#)

Alice Lascelles

[+ Add to myFT](#)

'recycled'). So Sydonios launched Unperfect but Amazing, a seconds range where a tiny bubble, a ripple, a straw mark, is reframed as a sign of "artisanal authenticity" (available at flintwines.com from this month). Meanwhile, the Crack collection by [Lobmeyr x Murray Moss](#) sees crystal tumblers engraved to appear as if cracked. At €325 a piece, these trompe-l'oeil works are, ironically, around five times more expensive than non-engraved glasses.



Kintsugi cutlery and chopstick rests by Tomomi Kamoshita, made from fragments of glass broken in the 2024 Noto peninsula earthquake © Tomomi Kamoshita

Recommended



HTSI

Malik Acid, the cocktail makers of the moment

There is a point, of course, at which a flawed glass simply becomes unsafe. At that point, ceramicist and *kintsugi* artist [Tomomi Kamoshita](#) turns it into art. She knits shards of coloured glass together using adapted *kintsugi* techniques to make beautiful objets, including chopstick rests using broken glass from the 2024 earthquake. "Rather than turning away from what has been damaged," she says, "I've learned from *kintsugi* that there are views you can only see because you've

gone through and overcome those breaks."

[@alicelascelles](#)