

Housewares Headlines  
by Gisela Hamlin

G.B. Russo & Son  
2770 29th Street SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49512  
616-942-2980

Some of you may remember a line of stemware we carried several years ago, Schott Zwiesel. It was a wonderfully stylish line from one of the top glassware manufacturers in Europe. Unfortunately they had distribution problems here in the US, so we had to drop the line.

The great news is that not only is Schott Zwiesel back with a new distributor, but it's better than ever. The glass has been reformulated to be more durable and brilliant than any other on the market. Schott Zwiesel collaborated with the University of Erlangen to create a new type of lead free crystal, patented under the name of Tritan. Add a new manufacturing process that strengthens the vulnerable areas of the rim, the junctions of the bowl and stem and the junction of the base and stem and the stemware is virtually unbreakable. To quote the company: "...glass that is highly resilient to dishwashers, accidental breakage and chipping." Yes, you read right: dishwasher. Tritan stemware has been tested and is guaranteed not to etch.

Virtually unbreakable. Sounds like advertising hype, doesn't it? However, I can attest that it is true! My sales representative loaned me a glass to take home to try. I washed it, then was interrupted and put it on a towel on the counter to drain. By the time I got back to the kitchen, I had forgotten about it, grabbed the towel to hang it up and watched in horror as the glass did a nice arc onto the floor. Not only didn't it break, it didn't even chip or scratch. The glass survived several more similar, though unintended, attempts at breaking it. Yes, I am convinced!

With all this, the stemware must be incredibly expensive, right? While it may be a little more so than the average quality glass, it will last much longer. We will be carrying 4 styles, at least to start: Diva at \$13.99 a stem, Forte at \$11.99, Mondial at \$8.99, and Convention at \$6.99 (you may recall the Convention and Mondial lines). Please stop by to see for yourself the beauty and durability of Tritan stemware.