

# VIDRIO SOPLADO



Mexico is well known for its high quality glass, including thick stemware, pitchers, gazing balls, and bowls of all kinds. It is made by hand by skilled glass blowers. They begin with recycled glass, crushed by hand, and Borax, which is added to help the glass melt better. The large ovens heat the glass to melting at temperatures of 1100° C. The tools of the trade - long iron tubes, large iron tongs, metal tables & other iron implements—are used, as well as blowing techniques, to form the desired object. The molten glass is picked up with a long metal tube. To change the color of the glass, they use various metal oxides; a section of the oven contains the metal oxide. For example, they use an iron oxide to make green glass. A section of the oven contains the metal oxide. To make the "confetti" look, the molten glass is dipped in pieces of colored glass. During the making of one piece, the glass blower must put it back into the oven 2-3 times. Each piece is cooled slowly in another oven, about 15-16 hours, to prevent cracking. We offer colorful gazing balls that have both a silver lining and cracks on the outer surface. To form the outer cracks, the freshly formed, still hot gazing ball is dipped into cool water, cracking only the outer surface. It must be very thick to withstand this process. Then, the silver lining is applied to the interior of a glass ball by using a solution of silver nitrate plus ammonia. Combined with heat, the mixture causes a reaction which binds the silver to the inside of the ball. A family business of more than 30 years, they are proud of the business they have created and continue to work in today. High quality glass products are their specialty, direct from Mexico!



## HAND-BLOWN GLASS

