

Joe Driver

Joe Driver, better known as “Papa Joe”, has been an avid collector of unusual rocks and minerals for many years, which he tumble-polishes and makes into beautiful jewelry using his skills in Lapidary Arts. One look at his pieces and you can sense his admiration for the earth’s treasures with which he works. But even in his vast collection, he was missing one of his favorites—Sea Glass, which is glass washed up on beaches after it has been tumbled by waves, water, and sand. The reason? Its rarity, as beachcombing collectors have obtained this much-sought-after booty for its intrinsic beauty and use in jewelry-making.

So Papa Joe decided to create his own version of Sea Glass, and began with used wine bottles from nearby Satek Winery to achieve the array of colors and free-form shapes that are characteristic of the most desirable beach glass. With a smile, he describes the “very scientific” process of breaking up the wine bottles by dropping them inside a bucket. This yields pieces of varying sizes and shapes, with no two pieces alike. He then tumbles them in a commercial rock tumbler with silicone carbide grit for 10 days, which give them the patina that’s frosted and smooth like natural Sea Glass.