# Solid Silver Fruit Knife, Paris 1789



620 EUR

Signature : Jean-François-Marie Delaunay

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

## Description

Paris, 1789 - Jean-François-Marie Delaunay. Rare solid silver fruit knife, made in Paris in 1789, at the very end of the Ancien Régime. The design is of exemplary neoclassical purity: slender silver blade, silver ferrule and butt cap, deep black ebony handle, highlighted with an oval cartouche bearing the initials DM, engraved in the period. Intended for eating fruit - whose acidity damaged steel blades - these knives testify to the extreme refinement of the culinary arts on the eve of the French Revolution. Hallmarks - Paris 1789 o Maker's mark: A in a circle (1789, used until 1792) o Guild mark: crowned P, year 1789 o Discharge mark: oak leaf o Cutler's mark: ermine in a rectangle. This last mark corresponds to Jean-François-Marie Delaunay. Delaunay, a Parisian cutler whose comparable works are held

## Dealer

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at the Louvre Museum (Department of Decorative Arts), attests to the quality and institutional recognition of this production. An object at the heart of history: Precisely dated to 1789, this knife belongs to that pivotal period when the Louis XVI style reached its perfect balance: sobriety, measured proportions, and elegance without excess. The absence of a coat of arms, in favor of a simple monogram, underscores a private commission, likely from an enlightened Parisian bourgeois circle. Dimensions: Length: 20.5 cm Heritage significance: Piece strictly dated 1789; Parisian production authenticated by complete hallmarks; Cutler identified and held in national collections; Neoclassical elegance emblematic of the Louis XVI style; Rare surviving tableware in good condition