



Twisted Cloister Column With Crocket Capital - Italy, 14th Century



5 500 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Marble

Width : 29

Height : 133

Depth : 30

Description

Twisted Cloister Column with Crocket Capital
Italy, 14th Century

133 × 29 × 30 cm

This elegant white marble column is a fine example of Italian Gothic architectural sculpture.

Its slender shaft is boldly carved with two intertwining helical bands that ascend in a

continuous spiral, creating a dynamic interplay of light and shadow. The vigorous rhythm of the carving, executed directly into the stone, imparts a remarkable sense of movement and verticality, drawing the eye upward with effortless grace.

The shaft rises from a stepped octagonal base whose chamfered edges display traces of wear consistent with centuries of use. Its relatively modest dimensions--133 cm in height and measuring 29 × 30 cm in section--are

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characteristic of cloister columns intended to support arcades of limited span, such as those found in Franciscan, Dominican, and Augustinian convents throughout central and northern Italy. Columns of this type were commonly arranged in sequences, alternating plain and spiral shafts, or paired beneath a single arch to enrich the architectural rhythm of the cloister.

The detachable capital is carved in the Gothic manner and ornamented with finely executed crockets--stylized foliate projections emerging at the angles and on the central faces--beneath a simple, flat abacus. The refinement of its carving reflects the decorative vocabulary that flourished in Italian ecclesiastical architecture during the fourteenth century.

Twisted marble columns of closely related form can be seen in the cloisters of San Paolo fuori le Mura and San Giovanni in Laterano in Rome, where the spiral shaft was employed both for its structural function and for its striking ornamental effect. Combining architectural purpose with sculptural sophistication, the present column embodies the elegance and spiritual aspiration characteristic of the Italian Gothic tradition.