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Gilded Bronze And Gilded Crystal Napoleon III Tantalus



2 450 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 32 cm

Height : 33 cm

Depth : 19 cm

Description

Provenance
Complete liqueur cave from the Napoleon III period, made in France in the late 19th century. Objects of this type were intended for refined domestic interiors, serving both as functional reception pieces and as decorative objects displayed in a salon, dining room or cabinet.
Description
Fine complete liqueur cave composed of an openwork gilt bronze frame fitted with three crystal decanters and twelve matching liqueur glasses. The bronze structure is highly decorative, with pierced side supports, geometric and curvilinear motifs, circular ornaments, scroll-like elements and a finely worked carrying handle. The overall composition is balanced and architectural, characteristic of Napoleon III

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decorative taste, where technical execution and visual richness were combined with practical use. The most important feature of this example is the quality and apparent originality of the crystal interior. The three decanters and twelve glasses form a coherent and well-matched set, perfectly proportioned to the bronze frame. Each crystal element is richly decorated with gilded floral motifs, garlands, foliage and stylised ornamental details. This is a particularly significant point for liqueur caves of this type, as many surviving examples retain their original bronze cases but have later, simplified or replacement glass elements that do not correspond to the quality of the mount. In this case, the crystal service is of a notably high standard and is visually consistent with the refinement of the gilt bronze structure. The gilded decoration on the crystal is exceptionally well preserved, retaining its clarity and decorative presence. The faceted stoppers, cut crystal surfaces and gilded ornament create a strong visual effect, especially when displayed against light. The set also retains its original small key, an important detail for the completeness of the object.

Technique and materials

Openwork gilt bronze frame, cast, chased and assembled. Cut crystal decanters and liqueur glasses with surface-applied gilded decoration. The quality of the crystal, the faceted stoppers and the detailed gilt motifs indicate careful craftsmanship.

Dating

Late 19th century, Napoleon III period. The dating is supported by the gilt bronze construction, the openwork ornamental vocabulary and the decorative function typical of French luxury objects from the second half of the 19th century.

Condition

Very good condition. Complete set comprising three decanters, twelve glasses and original key. The gilding on the crystal is in excellent condition. No damage reported.

Function and display

A refined serving and display object, suitable for a 19th-century decorative arts collection, a classical interior, a vitrine, console or dining room setting. The contrast between gilt bronze and gilded crystal gives the piece strong decorative presence.

Dimensions

height - 33 cm

length - 32 cm

depth - 19 cm