



Antique Italian Solid Silver Chalice. Italy Circa 1780-1820



3 250 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Beautiful antique liturgical chalice made entirely in silver and manufactured in Italy between the late 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, circa 1780-1820. It is a piece of great elegance and magnificent proportions, clearly representative of the refined Italian religious silversmithing of the period. Although it does not display visible hallmarks, both its design and the structure of the chalice fully correspond to the late Baroque and transitional Neoclassical Italian style characteristic of the late Settecento.

The chalice stands out for the harmony of its forms and for the richness of the engraved and repoussé decoration that runs throughout the entire piece. The base, broad and very stable, is

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decorated with exquisite work of geometric motifs and floral ornamentation distributed in symmetrical registers. The different surfaces alternate stippled areas, gadroons, cartouches and floral and vegetal reliefs that create a very elegant visual effect full of depth. The moulded edge of the base also provides a feeling of solidity and richness very characteristic of high-quality Italian liturgical silverwork.

The central knob possesses a generous size and a particularly attractive presence. Its bulbous and gadrooned form is very comfortable for liturgical use and at the same time provides great visual balance to the ensemble. It is decorated with the same ornamental language as the base, combining floral motifs, geometric panels and textured surfaces worked with enormous delicacy. The quality of the chasing can be especially appreciated in this area, where the light reflects upon the different planes of the silver creating a very lively and elegant effect.

The sub-cup maintains the decorative continuity of the rest of the piece and appears ornamented with vegetal motifs and scrollwork inspired by the late Baroque style. Above it rises the smooth and slightly flared cup, with a sober and highly refined profile. The contrast between the silver decoration of the lower part and the completely gilt interior creates a very beautiful and solemn visual effect. The interior gilding is also preserved in excellent condition, bright and uniform, a particularly important detail in an antique liturgical piece intended for Eucharistic use.

The chalice remains in magnificent condition and preserves all the nobility and elegance of the great Italian liturgical silverwork of the late 18th century. The silver maintains a superb presence,

with sharp and deep reliefs that continue to capture the light spectacularly, while the gilt interior of the cup remains brilliant and perfectly suitable for liturgical use. It is a piece that immediately conveys authenticity, artisanal quality and ceremonial solemnity.

Due to its beautiful proportions, refined decoration and excellent state of preservation, this chalice would be an extraordinary addition both to an important sacred art collection and to a church with sensitivity towards antique religious silversmithing. It is not merely a beautiful antique: it is a chalice created for worship and perfectly capable of returning to the altar with all the dignity and presence for which it was made more than two centuries ago. A historic, elegant and fully living chalice, prepared to continue serving worship for another 200 years.

Measurements: Height: 25 cm (9.84 in). Cup diameter: 8.5 cm (3.35 in). Base diameter: 14 cm (5.51 in). Weight: 462 g. (16.30 oz.)