



19th Century French Jewelry Box In Walnut, Former Maîtrise Chest

2 340 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Walnut

Description

More than simply a jewelry box, this exquisite piece is an authentic 19th-century French commode de maîtrise, thoughtfully repurposed today as a luxurious storage cabinet for jewelry, watches, keepsakes, or other treasured possessions. Its compact proportions and beautifully crafted drawers make it perfectly suited to modern interiors, while its remarkable history sets it apart from ordinary jewelry boxes. Originally, this miniature chest was created as a commode de maîtrise--a masterpiece produced by a cabinetmaker's apprentice or journeyman to demonstrate his mastery of traditional woodworking techniques before earning the title of master craftsman. Rather than serving as a toy or decorative miniature, these pieces represented the highest level of technical skill, requiring

Dealer

Chic French Antiques

Purveyor of fine French antiques dating from the 18th to the 20th century

Mobile : 0612049287

Showroom

La Ciotat 13600

exceptional precision in joinery, veneering, proportion, and finishing. Crafted primarily from solid walnut and adorned with magnificent Thuya burl veneer on the drawer fronts, this example displays the dramatic swirling grain that has made Thuya one of the most admired decorative woods in French cabinetmaking. Elegant brass knobs, shield-shaped escutcheons, rounded front corners, and charming bun feet further enhance its refined appearance. The hand-cut dovetail drawers remain solid and functional, each lined with fabric, making the cabinet ideal for organizing jewelry, cufflinks, watches, precious documents, or other cherished objects. Dating from circa 1830-1860, this beautiful miniature chest combines historical significance with everyday practicality. It offers collectors and interior designers the rare opportunity to own an authentic example of the French guild tradition while enjoying it as an elegant and highly functional jewelry cabinet. A true conversation piece, this former commode de maîtrise is now ready to begin a new life as a sophisticated jewelry box, blending nearly two centuries of French craftsmanship with contemporary living. Dimensions: H: 33.5 cm × W: 35.5 cm × D: 27 cm (H: 13.2 in × W: 14 in × D: 10.6 in)