PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Richly Carved Wedding Chest, Made In Tuscany In The 16th Century

11 500 EUR



Signature : Manufacture toscane du XVIe siècle

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 85

Height : 47

Depth : 40

Description

The chest presented here is a splendid example of Renaissance
decoration. The work, made of walnut, in its style and details refers to the
Tuscan tradition of the 16th century. The front's carved decoration is highly
complex and elaborate, featuring two winged sirens that transform into scrolls,
interwoven with floral motifs and birds in low relief. The two fantastic
figures support a large noble coat of arms, wrapped in a scroll and surmounted
by a crown. At its center, a rampant bull facing left holds a crossbow. This is
a so-called "speaking" coat of arms, meaning that it contains a figure or
symbol alluding to the name of the armiger. In

Dealer

Galleria Mossini
Old master paintings, sculptures, works of art, rugs and carpets
Mobile : 0039 3405671242

Via Camillo Benso Cavour 104
Mantova 46100

this case, the crossbow has led
to the identification of the Balestri family, of
Bolognese nobility, whose coat
of arms is reproduced below.
The upper part, shaped like an urn with three tiers
of carving, is also
richly finished with palmettes and flowers from
which a radiating decoration
unfolds. The sides of the object are likewise
adorned with palmette motifs. Two
pilasters with vegetal decoration terminate in the
front feet, carved in the
round in the form of crouching lions. In the lower
register, an intricate
gadrooned carving runs along the front and sides.
The beautiful patina and
remarkable state of preservation make it a true
museum piece.
At the Louvre in Paris, there is a nuptial chest of
the same manufacture. The
object, larger in size, features the same front
decoration with fantastic figures
transforming into scrolls, as well as a similar lid
and gadrooning on the lower
register. These stylistic elements, very close to
those of the chest under
examination, suggest that the two objects
originated from the same workshop or
were, in any case, the result of two contemporary
manufactories.