Exotic Wood Cabinet, Napoleon III



4 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Ce cabinet est après rénovation de très bonne qualité.

Material : Bronze

Width : 109 cm

Height : 113 cm

Depth : 43 cm

Description

We are honored to present a truly magnificent 19th-century French Napoleon III cabinet, an exceptional testament to the era's opulence, sophisticated design, and unparalleled craftsmanship. The Napoleon III period (1852-1870), synonymous with the Second French Empire, witnessed a fervent revival of historical styles - from Louis XIV to Louis XVI - often reinterpreted with an extravagant hand and a distinct emphasis on luxury, new materials, and technological advancements in manufacturing. This superb cabinet perfectly embodies this prevailing aesthetic, crafted from a sophisticated combination of rich ebony, radiant gilt bronze, sumptuous marble, and exquisite exotic woods.Architectural Form, Rich Materials, and Meticulous Detailing:

Dealer

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The cabinet stands proudly on elegant, topie-shaped legs, a detail favored for its classicism and stability, gracefully adorned with thin foliated bands in gilded bronze. The base itself features beautifully fitted rectangular patterns in burl walnut, expertly framed with a pretty string of charming wood, showcasing the period's mastery of intricate marquetry work.Ascending on either side of the central structure are decorative circular conical fluted columns. These columns, a nod to classical antiquity, are further embellished with intricately detailed gilt bronze "candles" (likely fluted or reeded elements mimicking candle forms) and crowned with exceptional gilt bronze capitals, adding a profound touch of classical grandeur and imperial pomp.The central door serves as a captivating focal point, displaying stunning exotic woods intricately encrusted with a detailed urn motif set against a rich burl walnut background. This central tableau reflects the era's fascination with classical motifs and elaborate pictorial marquetry. The door is elegantly framed by a foliated gold band, richly chiseled, with prominent square rosettes at each corner, showcasing the exemplary quality of the bronze d'ameublement. This central door opens to reveal a practical interior fitted with two shelves, combining aesthetic splendor with functional utility.Flanking the central door are additional panels, masterfully inlaid with exceptional floral marquetry, a delicate yet vibrant motif also repeated with great artistry on the sides of the cabinet. The vibrant juxtaposition of dark ebony with lighter exotic wood inlays and shimmering gilt bronze mounts is a hallmark of the Second Empire's pursuit of opulent contrasts.Crowning this exquisite piece is its original white Carrara marble top, perfectly selected for its luminous quality and mounted within a thin band of gilded bronze, providing a sophisticated and enduring finish.Key Features & Investment Potential:Authentic Napoleon III Period Masterpiece: This cabinet is a quintessential

example of the luxurious and eclectic tastes of the Second French Empire (1852-1870). It masterfully blends classical forms, revival styles, and lavish ornamentation, defining the period's "return to grandeur" in decorative arts.Superior Material Combination: The masterful and opulent use of precious ebony, richly figured burl walnut and other exotic woods, lustrous gilt bronze, and pristine Carrara marble highlights the cabinet's exceptional quality and visual richness, characteristic of high-end imperial commissions.Exceptional Inlay and Bronze Work: The intricate floral marquetry, the sophisticated urn motif, and the exquisitely cast and finely chiseled gilt bronze mounts demonstrate an unparalleled level of craftsmanship and artistic execution, a hallmark of the finest Parisian ébénistes and bronziers of the era.Functional Elegance: Beyond its breathtaking decorative beauty, the cabinet offers practical storage with its shelves, rendering it a highly functional as well as an artistic piece suitable for a discerning modern interior.Profound Historical Significance: As a tangible piece of 19th-century French imperial history, this cabinet reflects the artistic flourishing, economic prosperity, and cultural ambitions of the Second Empire under Napoleon III, making it a valuable historical artifact.Strong Investment Potential: As a unique, high-quality, and historically important piece from a highly collectible period, this cabinet represents a compelling investment opportunity, poised to appreciate in value over time for the astute collector and connoisseur.Superior Material Combination: The masterful use of rare ebony, exotic woods (notably burl walnut), lustrous gilt bronze, and pristine Carrara marble highlights the cabinet's exceptional quality and visual richness.Exceptional Inlay and Bronze Work: The intricate floral marquetry, detailed urn motif, and the finely chiseled gilt bronze mounts demonstrate an unparalleled level of craftsmanship.Functional Elegance: Beyond its

decorative beauty, the cabinet offers practical storage with its shelves, making it a functional as well as an artistic piece.Historical Significance: A tangible piece of 19th-century French imperial history, reflecting the grandeur and artistic flourishing of the Second Empire.Strong Investment Potential: As a unique, high-quality, and historically important piece from a desirable period, this cabinet represents a compelling investment opportunity, poised to appreciate in value over time for the astute collector.