Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Monumental Victorian Buff Terracotta Campana Urn, Circa 1850

£1,250

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REF: 7756

Height: 125 cm (49.2")

Diameter: 70 cm (27.6")

Description

A monumentally scaled Victorian buff terracotta Campana urn, dating to circa 1850 and richly modelled in relief with trailing grape vines, leaves, and abundant foliage. Likely produced by one of the leading English makers of garden ornament in the mid-19th century, this exceptional piece draws directly on the celebrated Campana urns of ancient Rome: classical forms rediscovered through archaeology and enthusiastically adopted for the grand Italianate gardens, conservatories, and country-house landscapes of the Victorian period.

The generous bowl is enlivened by deeply worked vines that sweep across the surface, creating a sense of movement and luxuriance. Its warm buff terracotta has acquired a softly weathered patina, bringing out the modelling and lending the surface the mellow character that only age and exposure can achieve. The original stand gives the urn an architectural presence and elevates its already impressive scale, allowing the piece to command attention from every angle.

Designed as a garden ornament of considerable status, the Campana urn would originally have formed part of a carefully composed landscape-perhaps arranged along a terrace, at the head of a formal avenue, beside a conservatory, or flanking the entrance to a substantial house. Its classical profile and naturalistic vine decoration embody the Victorian love of the antique world, interpreted with confidence and decorative exuberance.

Today, it is equally successful indoors or out. In a garden, courtyard, orangery, or conservatory, it makes a dramatic focal point when planted with seasonal foliage, ferns, palms, trailing plants, or a formal citrus tree. Within an interior, it would bring scale and texture to an entrance hall, garden room, reception room, or the foot of a sweeping staircase. Left unplanted, it stands as an important sculptural object in its own right.

A rare and imposing example of Victorian garden ornament, combining classical inspiration, richly decorative craftsmanship, and remarkable architectural scale.

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