Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

17th-Century English Bronze Pestle and Mortar, Circa 1650

£285

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REF: 7633

Description

A substantial and characterful English bronze pestle and mortar, dating from circa 1650. Robustly cast and made for daily use, the deep-sided mortar is paired with a satisfyingly weighty pestle, creating an object of great visual and tactile presence. The bronze has developed a rich, mellow patina over the centuries, lending warmth and depth to its simple, purposeful form.

In the 17th century, mortars and pestles were indispensable tools in kitchens, stillrooms, and apothecary rooms. They were used to grind spices, herbs, medicines, pigments, and other domestic ingredients, and would have been valued for their strength, reliability, and longevity. This example embodies the practical beauty of English country-house metalwork: unpretentious, enduring, and shaped by generations of use.

Today, its generous scale makes it as appealing as a decorative object as it is a piece of early domestic history. It would sit beautifully on a kitchen island, dresser, pantry shelf, or console table, bringing instant texture and authenticity to an interior. It can be displayed empty for its sculptural qualities, or filled with gathered herbs, dried stems, fruit, or seasonal foliage for an evocative centrepiece.

A handsome survivor from the mid-17th century, combining genuine utility, rich surface character, and the quiet permanence of English bronze.

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