

A Fine Old Italian Cello

Possibly North Italian or Venetian Sphere, circa late 17th to early 18th century



This remarkable old cello displays many characteristics associated with the North Italian tradition, possibly within the broader Venetian sphere. The instrument possesses an elegant and highly individual outline, with beautifully flowing contours, expressive f-holes, and a richly sculpted scroll of striking personality.

The varnish is of a warm golden-amber color over a deeper brown ground, exhibiting the soft luminosity and texture often admired in older Italian instruments. Particularly attractive is the cello's honest surface wear and natural patina, which together contribute to an appearance of authenticity and maturity rarely encountered in modern commercial work.

The back is fashioned from a maple of restrained and irregular figure, lending the

instrument a refined and understated elegance, while the table displays narrow, beautifully textured grain beneath the varnish. The ribs and edgework reveal confident handmade craftsmanship rather than rigid workshop uniformity.

Tonally, the cello is exceptionally impressive, producing a broad, projecting sound with notable carrying power in a concert hall setting. The instrument possesses warmth, depth, and a remarkable ability to bloom at a distance — qualities frequently associated with fine older Italian celli.

Although further research and dendrochronological examination are presently underway, the instrument already presents a highly compelling case as an important old cello of Italian character and considerable artistic merit.

An outstanding and visually distinguished instrument of rare individuality and strong professional potential.

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