



**A PAIR OF ITALIAN ALABASTER MEDICI &
BORGHESE VASES**

Dimensions: H: 19.5 in / 49.5 cm | Dia: 14.5 in / 36.5 cm

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A Pair of Italian Alabaster Medici & Borghese Vases

Carved in relief with exceptional skill, the translucent [alabaster](#) urns modelled after two of Antiquity's most celebrated treasures, the Borghese Vase and the Medici Vase. Each vase having a wide egg-and-dart everted rim above a central frieze sculpted in relief with classical figures. The body is flanked by twin loop handles anchored by carved satyr masks, the Medici vase resting upon a gadrooned lower section while the Borghese model has gadrooning, both on a fluted pedestal socle, and a sturdy square plinth base.

Italian, circa 1870

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Discovered in Rome during the 16th century, the original Medici and Borghese ancient marble kraters became quintessential icons of [Classical Antiquity](#). One depicts a mythological gathering of

heroes, while the other portrays a bacchanalian procession celebrating Dionysus. During the 19th century, scaled reductions in alabaster were prized Grand Tour souvenirs, making this pair a classic centrepiece of grand neoclassical design.

A related pair of Italian alabaster vases, sold from the Robert de Balkany collection, Christie's, London, 23 march, 2017, lot 402 (GBP £75,000).