

PALM BEACH

The largest collection of important 17th, 18th and 19th century French, Italian and Continental Antique furniture and accessories in the United States. Luxuriously showcased in a truly authentic European ambiance of a custom designed two-story 20,000 square foot gallery.

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A striking and extremely decorative French 19th century Louis XVI st. Belle Époque period candelabra lamps after a model by Pierre Gouthière. Each four arm lamp is raised by an elegant circular white Carrara marble base with a fine bottom ormolu fillet, a beautiful mottled design, and a richly chased wrap around berried laurel band below a superb spiral fluted design at the socle shaped pedestal. The elegant circular tapered white Carrara marble central support leads upwards to beautiful blooming flowers and wheat sprigs centered by exceptional gracefully curved arms. Each arm displays stunning spiral fluted designs and superb scrolled Rinceau movements each adorned with large acanthus leaves leading to lovely floral and beaded bobeches and candle cups with a single arm at the center decorated in the same manner. Pierre Gouthière (1732-1814) - born Bar-sur-Aube, was known as the best metal worker and gilder of his time and was unsurpassed by any of his rivals. He was the student of François Ceriset who's workshop he took over in 1758. Under the protection of the duke d'Aumont, he produced works for King Louis XVI and Princess Marie Antoinette and become the sole gilder for the "Menus-Plaisirs du Roi". He was the inventor of the matte gilding which became know as the beautiful satin and burnished finish noticed on high quality pieces and trained famous bronzier Pierre-Philippe Thomire in his studio. He also produced work for the duchess of Mazarin and Madame du Barry. Unfortunately, most of his work was lost or destroyed but some of his finest and most representative creations can still be admired in the Wallace Collection.

Item #12760 H: 41 in L: 11 in D: 11 in List Price: \$19,800.00



