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PALM BEACH

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A stunning and extremely high quality French 19th century Louis XVI st. Belle Époque period ebony, ormolu and black Belgian marble buffet, attributed to Befort Jeune. The buffet is raised by beautiful most unique spiral tapered ormolu feet with fine foliate top caps. The frieze is centered by a striking richly chased pierced scrolled acanthus leaf foliate ormolu mount. Above is one door with an exceptional and most decorative circular ormolu plaque of charming wonderfully detailed lovebirds frolicking. All framed within a fine Coeur-de-Rai wrap around band with a lovely top tied ribbon. A richly chased foliate band extends along the border of the central door and opens to reveal all original hardware and one shelf. The two side doors display similar wrap around foliate ormolu bands and each door is separated by impressive architectural columns with beautiful gilded flutes and lovely fluted and spiraled ormolu top and bottom caps. Wonderfully executed and richly detailed pierced Rinceaux shaped scrolled ormolu mounts extend along the apron with charming cherubs, laurel branches and the eternal flame at the center. Above is the original fitted black Belgian marble top framed by an elegant gadroon designed ormolu band. Mathieu Befort (1813-1880) aka Befort Jeune, was a renowned Parisian cabinet maker, son of Jean-Baptiste Befort (died 1840), who established his Paris workshops in 1817 in the Faubourg Saint Honoré. The firm received a medal at the 1844 Exposition Des Produits de L'industrie Francaise. Later Befort Jeune was recorded working at Rue Neuve-Saint-Gilles between 1844-1880. The high quality of his work allowed him to become purveyor to Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie. Befort was very successful in creating pieces in the manner of Boulle and Renaissance.





