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A wonderful and small scaled pair of Italian 19th century Grand Tour Period Alabaster and Verde Ranocchia marble bust of Torquato Tasso and Michele Sanmicheli. These most decorative and finely executed busts are raised on square Ranocchia marble bases below a circular column with mottled bands. Each bust displays the carved name of Tasso and Michele below the body of the bust. Michele is shown in a classical representation with a buttoned shirt and overcoat. Tasso is showcased with his signature ruffled collar and laurel crown. Wonderful attention to detail throughout.

Michele Sanmicheli (1484-1559) was a renowned Italian architect and military engineer of the Renaissance. Born in Verona, he studied in Rome under architects influenced by Donato Bramante. Sanmicheli's groundbreaking designs for the Venetian Republic include advanced triangular bastion fortifications in Verona and monumental gates like Porta Nuova and Porta Palio.

Torquato Tasso (1544-1595) was an Italian Renaissance poet best known for his epic poem *Gerusalemme liberata* (1581), which masterfully recounts the Siege of Jerusalem during the First Crusade. Born in Sorrento, Tasso's literary talent emerged early with *Rinaldo* (1562) and the pastoral drama *Aminta* (1573).





