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A most handsome and large scale Italian mid 19th century patinated bronze grouping of the Farnese Bull. The statue is raised by a beautiful ormolu and white Carrara marble base with fine topie shaped feet. Above each foot are elegant block rosettes centering fine mirrored Vitruvian scrolls which are centered by an elegant palmette. The sculptural group represents the myth of Dirce first wife of Lykon, King of Thebes. She was tied to a wild bull by the sons of Antiope, Amphion and Zethus, who wanted to punish her for the ill-treatment inflicted on their mother.

The original group this is based upon was unearthed in 1546 during the excavations of the gymnasium of the Roman Baths of Caracalla. It is a massive Roman copy of a Hellenistic sculpture which happens to be the largest single sculpture recovered from antiquity. The Farnese Bull was formerly in the Farnese collection in Rome.





