

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE  
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS  
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉ DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

## CERTIFICATE

### **HEAD OF A SATYR IN WHITE MARBLE**

**ROME 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. AD**

***EX JOHN SPENCER COLLECTION***

***Acquired by the 1st Earl Spencer around 1760***

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** young satyr in fine white marble with short hair, slightly pointed ears and the flat nose in accordance with the characteristics of the satyr. Set on a piedouche with diverse registers in white marble. Good quality of the work which is lively and pleasant to look at from the different angles.

Shows signs of erosion due to age.

**ORIGINE:** the satyrs, like the Maenads, are the companions of the gods Dionysos and Pan. Hybrid characters, they are represented half-animal half-man, with pointed ears, sometimes crude features, a horse's tail and goat's feet. Creatures of exuberant sensuality and far from recommended behaviour, they are often depicted on vases, in the mosaics or in sculptures chasing after the nymphs to court them.

**COLLECTION:** the piece was one of the acquisitions made by John Spencer, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Spencer (1734-83), during the "Grand Tour" that he made in 1760 for the Spencer House in London or Althorp. Spencer House was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; the architecture was much inspired by Roman Palaces and was decorated by James "Athenian" Stuart (1713-1788), archeologist, architect, artist and pioneer of Neo-Classicism. The older property, Althorp, dates back to 1508 and had been redesigned in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the architect for English nobility, Henry Holland (1745-1806).

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 21cm -8,27'' without the base and 29.2cm -11,5'' with the base.

**CULTURAL PASSPORT** issued by the French Ministry of Culture, n° 121256.

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