

18TH CENTURY FRENCH PROVENCAL TERRACOTTA OLIVE OIL JAR FROM BIOT

$3,900

SKU: 253-201
Stock: N/A
Categories: Vases, Jardinières, Planters & Centerpieces

This impressive antique earthenware olive oil jar was crafted in Biot, Provence, Southern France, circa 1760, and exemplifies the robust utilitarian pottery traditionally produced in this renowned village. Formed from blond terracotta clay, the vessel features a classic bulbous silhouette designed for the storage and transport of olive oil, with thick walls and a generous, rounded body that speaks to its original agricultural purpose. The jar is finished with a pale ochre glaze concentrated around the rolled rim and neck, a characteristic detail of Biot production, contrasting beautifully with the natural beige and honeyed tones of the clay body. The surface displays a richly aged patina, with areas of wear, mineral deposits, and glaze losses consistent with centuries of use, all contributing to its authentic rustic character and visual depth. In southern France, and particularly in Biot on the French Riviera, these monumental vessels were known as the “king of jars” and were widely used during the 17th and 18th centuries for transporting and storing olive oil. Today, this antique Provençal jar makes a striking decorative statement, ideal as a sculptural accent in an entryway, garden room, or interior vignette inspired by Mediterranean or Country French design. The vessel remains in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with strong form, beautiful weathering, and no structural compromises, preserving its historic integrity and timeless appeal. Dimensions: 22" diameter x 29.5"H

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