

19TH CENTURY FRENCH TARDIEU FILS MENTON FAIENCE BARBOTINE CITRUS WALL PLATTER

$1,600

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Crafted in France circa 1890, this antique barbotine ceramic platter was produced by the Tardieu Fils workshop in Menton, on the French Riviera. Beautifully modeled in high relief, the oval dish features a naturalistic citrus branch with three richly textured oranges, glossy green leaves, and delicate blossoms set against a deeply variegated ground in warm chestnut and cream tones. The sculptural fruit and foliage appear freshly gathered, creating a lively, dimensional composition that celebrates the abundance of the Mediterranean coast.

The gently scalloped rim frames the composition, while the richly applied glazes pool and deepen in the recesses, enhancing the sense of depth and movement across the surface. The reverse retains its original hanging loop and is impressed “Tardieu Fils, Menton,” identifying the renowned regional workshop.

The Tardieu family workshop was active in Menton during the late 19th century, a period when the town was celebrated for both its citrus groves and its flourishing ceramic production. Jacques Tardieu is associated with richly modeled barbotine and majolica wares, particularly naturalistic fruit and botanical subjects that reflect the region’s identity and climate. Pieces bearing the Tardieu mark are sought after for their quality of modeling, vibrant glazing, and strong connection to the decorative arts traditions of the Côte d’Azur.

Both decorative and functional in spirit, this antique French wall platter makes a striking statement in a kitchen, garden room, or breakfast area. It may be displayed flat as a centerpiece or mounted vertically as originally intended, where its sculptural relief can be fully appreciated.

Dimensions: 14.25”W x 3”D x 19.5”H

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