



19TH CENTURY SET OF 12 FRENCH NAIL-STUDED BOULES WITH 2 WOODEN COCHONNETS

\$1,950

SKU: 976-879

Stock: N/A

Categories: [Miscellaneous Accessories](#), [New Arrivals](#)

Full of authentic French sporting character, this antique set of traditional boules includes 12 large wooden playing balls together with two smaller wooden cochonnets. Crafted in France circa 1880, each boule is densely covered with individually applied metal studs, creating the distinctive textured surface associated with early French boules cloutées.

Before modern metal pétanque balls became standard, wooden boules reinforced with metal nails were widely used for traditional games of boules throughout France. These early forms of play, particularly in Provence, are closely associated with the development of modern pétanque. The two smaller light-colored wooden balls are the cochonnets, or target balls, toward which players would throw their larger boules.

Each of the 12 boules has a slightly different size, shape, nail pattern, and surface patina, giving the group wonderful visual character. Several retain small brass or gilt markers, likely used to distinguish individual players or sets. Their closely spaced nail heads form concentric decorative patterns while also protecting the underlying wood from repeated play.

Today, the collection makes a striking decorative accessory displayed in a large bowl, basket, or glass vessel and would be especially appealing in a French country, Provençal, game room, or pétanque-themed interior.

Excellent condition commensurate with age and use. Surface wear, oxidation, variations in patina, and minor losses are consistent with age and traditional use.

Dimensions: Approximately 3.5" diameter each, with slight individual variations in size.