

SA1149589

Satsuma Vase with Elephant Handles and Shimazu Crest, c.1890

Price

GBP 850

| USD \$1,150 | EUR 995

Item Reference: SA1149589

Date of manufacture: 1890

Description

A Satsuma porcelain vase from the Meiji period, circa 1890, featuring a baluster body with wide shoulders and a flaring, scalloped rim. The vase is mounted on its original carved wooden stand, which is included. The surface is decorated with polychrome enamels and raised gilt, depicting rakan (arhats) - Buddhist sages shown with haloes and expressive faces - surrounded by brocade-style ornamentation. The iconography is rendered in meticulous detail, typical of high-end Satsuma production for export. Of particular note are the elephant-head side handles, modeled with curved trunks and gilt details. These carry strong Buddhist symbolism, evoking the sacred white elephant — a sign of wisdom, spiritual power, and royal strength. The underside bears a black and gold calligraphic mark reading "Satsuma-sei" – "Made in Satsuma", alongside the Shimazu clan crest (a cro...

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