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# Roman Marble Aphrodite

An ancient Roman marble statue of the goddess Aphrodite (Venus). She stands with the weight on her right leg holding with her left hand the folds of her mantle wrapped around the lower body, a long strand of hair falls over her left shoulder; cut at the right shoulder in the 19th century to accommodate a now missing restoration.



Ca. 2nd - 3rd century AD.
Height: 32 1/4 in. (81.5 cm).

Aphrodite (Latin: Venus) was the Greek goddess of sexual love and beauty. She was also known as Cypris and Cytherea after the two places, Cyprus and Cythera, where she was said to have originated. Hephaestus was her husband, the child Eros her companion, and Ares one of her lovers. The dove, the sparrow, and the swan were the animals sacred to her. In Rome, Julius Caesar and his successors claimed family descent from the Venus and the hero Aeneas. She was venerated as the mother of the Roman people as Venus Genetrix in the Roman Forum. Her image was ultimately derived from the work of the Greek sculptor Callimachus, ca. 420 BC.

Formerly in a French private collection, acquired in Paris in the 1970's, (accompanied by French cultural export passport).

*inventory number: 6727*

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