



# MICHELANGELO'S BACCHUS

ARTE DIVINE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
VATICAN OBSERVATORY FOUNDATION AND PRINCE LORENZO DE MEDICI,  
*presents* MICHELANGELO'S BACCHUS.





*"My eyes, longing for beautiful things, together with my soul  
longing for salvation, have no other power to ascend to  
heaven than the contemplation of beautiful things."*

– Michelangelo Buonarroti

Michelangelo is widely considered the greatest artistic genius that ever lived — a man whose name has become synonymous with the word masterpiece. To Michelangelo, his hands and tools were instruments directed by Divine Will. The concept of genius as Divine inspiration, a transcendent ability granted to a few rare individuals and acting through them, is nowhere more fully exemplified than in his life and work.

Michelangelo created most of his works for the Vatican and the Medici family of Florence, including the breathtaking frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, the incredibly beautiful Pietà and the monumental Moses. His first masterpiece sculpture was Bacchus the Roman God of Wine and it was with this sculpture that Michelangelo's reputation as the world's greatest sculptor began.





The Bacchus was commissioned in 1496 by Cardinal Raffaello Riario, who later sold it to the banker Jacopo Gallo. Gallo was so impressed with the talent of the young Michelangelo, that he obtained the commission for the iconic Pietà for him.



In 1572, the Bacchus was purchased by the Medici family and remained in their collection for approximately 200 years at their palace in Florence. The Bacchus is currently located at the Museo Nazionale del Bargello in Florence and is one of just two sculptures surviving Michelangelo's initial period in Rome, with the other being the Pietà.





Regarding the Pietà, Georgio Vasari, the great art historian, wrote:

*"This figure shows that he intended a marvelous blending of limbs, uniting the slenderness of a youth with the fleshy roundness of the female, the result proving Michelangelo's superiority to all of his contemporary sculptors. During his stay in Rome he made such progress in art that his conceptions were marvelous, and he executed difficulties with the utmost ease, frightening those who were not accustomed to see such things, for when they were done the works of others appeared as nothing beside them."*

Five hundred years ago Michelangelo unveiled what would come to be regarded as one of the world's great masterpieces and perhaps the most innovative sculpture he ever created. Now, under exclusive license from the Vatican Observatory Foundation and authorized by the Medici family, this masterpiece has been cast in bronze from a Vatican authorized mold of the original. The posthumous Bacchus is a precise 1:1 casting that is faithful to Michelangelo's original in every aspect and detail.



**ARTEDIVINE**

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Vatican Observatory Foundation



# MICHELANGELO'S BACCHUS

*Artist:* Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni  
(Florence 1475 - 1564 Rome)

*Description:* Posthumous Limited Edition of  
Michelangelo's Bacchus

*Origin:* Produced by Arte Divine from a Vatican  
authorized mold of Michelangelo's original  
“Bacchus” c 1496-97, Museo Nazionale del Bargello,  
Florence

*Medium:* Everdur Bronze

*Dimensions:* Height 78 inches

*Authorized Castings:* 112 Casts, Numbered 1/100 to  
100/100, HC 1/9 to HC 9/9, FP 1/3 to FP 3/3

*Edition Number:* Engraved in the verso base

*Curatorial Statement:* The prototype from which this  
sculpture was made is a precise casting derived from a  
mold of Michelangelo's original marble Bacchus. This  
posthumous casting is authorized under an exclusive  
license issued by the Vatican Observatory Foundation.  
Some minor historical damage to the Michelangelo  
original marble Bacchus has been carefully restored in  
this bronze casting.

## AUTHENTICATION SEALS AND DISTINGUISHING MARKS

*Vatican Observatory Foundation Seal:* The  
authenticity of this casting is certified by the VOF  
Medallion Seal affixed to the verso base of the  
sculpture, lower right.

*Publisher Seal:* The Medallion Seal of the publisher  
Artè Divine S.A., is affixed to the verso base of the  
sculpture, lower right.

*Medici Seal:* This edition has been approved and  
certified by the Medici family.

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sculpture, lower right

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