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Italy, Napoleonic Order of the Iron Crown, Knight, 1805 - 1813.

Silver, gold, enamels, 41.3 mm in height incl. eyelet, 23.1 mm in width, weighs 18.3 g. The blue-enamelled inscription encircling the bottom of the crown reads DIO ME LA DIEDE GUAI A CHI LA TOCCA, which translates as "God gives it to me, beware whoever touches it." Comes with a threaded suspension ribbon in yellow silk with green edges.

In very fine condition, showing a chip to the enamel of one of the crown's spikes and, a little to the left of it, a chip to the blue enamel encasing the inscription. The ribbon appears to be original, is very clean and free of any significant wear.

The Order of the Iron Crown was instituted by Napoleon in 1805, soon after he was crowned King of Italy. The order was awarded for services that benefited the Crown of Italy, be they military, administrative, or related to arts. In 1814, the Kingdom of Italy was lost to France, and the order was abolished. In 1814-1815, a version of it was revived by King Francois of Austria under the same name, but the original Order of the Iron Crown remained extinct.

Item# 45703

\$4,975.00



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