A Characterful ,8-10 Seater, English Tavern Trestle Table oak, England, 17th century, 217 cm (7 ft 1 in) long;

£14,000

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REF: 11937

Height: 79 cm (31.1")

Width: 217 cm (85.4")

Depth: 57 cm (22.4")

Description

A rare and highly characterful 17th-century English oak tavern trestle table of excellent form, colour, and surface patina. Surviving examples of tavern tables from this period are uncommon, owing to their intensive daily use within inns and public houses, where they served as focal points for eating, drinking, and social exchange.

This example displays a finely figured, thick, single-plank oak top of notable quality, retaining a rich, time-softened surface that speaks to centuries of use. The top is supported on shaped trestle ends, joined by a central pegged stretcher and standing on trestle feet, the whole forming a structurally robust and visually balanced silhouette. The trestle form is widely regarded as the most practical and comfortable configuration for communal seating, allowing ease of access and flexibility in use.

The table remains in original condition, with excellent, untouched colour and patina throughout - qualities that are increasingly prized in vernacular furniture of this age. Its proportions allow it to seat eight to ten people comfortably, while its relatively narrow depth makes it equally suitable for use in more compact settings.

Context and Use
Tavern tables occupy a distinct place within the history of English vernacular furniture. Designed for durability and constant use, they were rarely preserved once worn beyond repair, making intact 17th-century examples particularly scarce. Their appeal today lies not only in their practicality but also in their ability to convey a sense of lived history and social continuity.

This table adapts effortlessly to a range of settings: as a dining table in a smaller space, a writing or library table, or as a strong accent piece. Its honest construction, tactile surface, and restrained form allow it to integrate seamlessly into period interiors while also providing texture and historical depth within modern and contemporary schemes.

Dimensions
Length: 217 cm (7 ft 1 in)
Depth: 57 cm (22½ in)
Height: 79 cm (31 in)
Top thickness: 3.5 cm

Provenance
Private Collection, Scotland.

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