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A beautiful Italian early 19th century Neo-Classical st. engraving of Villa Negroni, depicting Ariadne and Bacchus marked Pietro Bartolozzi. The wonderfully executed engraving displays an arched top and lovely vivid colors and hand painted with gouache depicting Ariadne and Bacchus standing in an arched doorway flanked by columns with satyr masks and exceptional architectural elements. Framed within its original mottled giltwood frame with richly carved acanthus leaf and Coeur de Rai designs. All original gilt throughout.

The original frescos were discovered in Rome in 1777 where the remains of an ancient house were discovered on the land of Villa Negroni near the Baths of Diocletian. These frescos were estimated to date back to the 2nd century and were subsequently purchased for the Earl of Bristol, whom commissioned an artist to make copies of the paintings to ensure preservation and a volume of plates were produced as a result. The plates were only lightly etched with the intention that the published impressions would be heavily hand-colored, in the intense reds, blues and purples that are described in contemporary accounts of the paintings. The tops are arched at the top due to the originals in Villa Negroni being in a room with vaulted ceilings.





