

# shopping for the perfect antique

by YANIC SIMARD

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**S**hopping for antiques is always fun and exciting and can build up quite an adrenaline rush. Imagining where the piece came from, who it belonged to, what it was used for, the feeling you get when you have to have it, and you better grab it right away because someone else will – remember you snooze you lose! Though it can be quite an adventure going through these museum-like shops, having some tips to go by while scouting for pieces is extremely significant, to help avoid disappointment and encourage a smart purchase.

### 1 Do not spend a fortune on an antique unless you know what you are buying.

Beware of reproductions and re-makes. If you're looking to buy a true antique, take the time to do your homework first. You want to feel good about what you take home. Just because a piece is expensive, doesn't mean it's real. There are several online resources available which give tips on how to determine whether a piece is real, and on what a fair price would be for the item. You may have found a quality piece signed by the designer, but again, do your research first. This will help you avoid disappointment and encourage a confident and educated buy.

### 2 Purchase what you love

Buying what you love can be just as important, if not more, than buying something that is genuine. Don't buy a piece if it doesn't appeal to you. It will just sit on the shelf and collect dust. Invest in pieces that reflect your personal style and mean something to you. It will make learning about their history much more of an interesting endeavour!

### 3 Restoration

Just because a piece looks "old" doesn't mean it's the perfect antique. It may be in very poor condition and in need of a bit of work. Always fully inspect the item before deciding to buy it. Open its drawers or doors, examine the bottom of it, check that its legs or arms are steady, pick up the piece to see if anything falls off, run your hand against the surface. If an antique is chipped, torn or cracked in any way, it may decrease its value drastically. It's a good idea to ask the seller how and if it can be reconditioned. It's always good to know what to expect ahead of time, so that way you know what you're in for once it's yours.

### 4 Shop in the UK

The UK is known for its authentic antiques, so if you're a serious antique shopper, I would suggest taking a trip. The UK has a prominent history in trade and invention, and many of the pieces from these times remain in the region.

### 5 Look outside the "Antique Shop."

Antiques and unique collectables are everywhere. I found an amazing elaborate gilt side table for my place curb-side! Check out garage sales, flea markets, and even local malls sometimes hold antique bazaars. Browse often and compare – the more you search the more you'll know.



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