

# PUNTO BANCO

How to play



CASINO  SINCE 1638  
DI VENEZIA

## PUNTO BANCO

Traditional Punto Banco Baccarat (*large variant*) is played at a table with two dealers and up to fifteen players. Whereas Midi Baccarat is played at a smaller, semi-circular table, similar to a Black Jack table, with a banker and between seven (Mini Baccarat) and nine players. The cards from 1 (ace) to 9 score the value shown on them, and the picture cards (jack, queen, king) and 10s are worth zero.

The score of a hand is calculated by adding the value of the cards together and ignoring the tens digit (e.g. 8+6=14=4). The highest score that can be achieved is a 9 (known as a "natural" or *abatage*) with the first two cards, and the lowest is "0".

Every player can choose between three different kinds of stake: "Punto" or "Player", "Banco" or Banker, and "Egalité" or "Tie".

Payments are evens except for the *Egalité or Tie combination, which is paid at 8 to 1*. The Casino keeps a 5% house commission (*cagnotte*) of winnings from stakes laid on the Banker's (*Banco*) hand. The Banker conducts the game, dealing the cards, raking in the losing chips and paying the winning ones.

To play a hand, four cards are extracted from the shoe (*sabot*), one at a time, and laid face down on the table. The *first and third* are dealt to the *Player (Punto)*, the *second and fourth* are dealt to the *Banker (Banco)*. Having read the score from these first two cards, play stops or another card is dealt to the Player according to the Table of Play (*Tableau de Tirage*). This table lists the game rules to be observed by both the *Player* and the *Banker*. *From this moment on, it is this Table of Play that always determines whether a hand will stand pat or whether a third card will be dealt to the Player or to the Banker.*

Scores of eight and nine with the first two cards is a hand known as a "natural" or *abatage* (an expression used in Chemin de Fer for showing your cards) for both the *Player* and the *Banker*.

These combinations close the hand and no further cards can be drawn.

The Player must abide by the rules and draw a third card if the first two cards total a score of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, stand if they total a score of 6 or 7, and call a "natural" hand or *abatage* if they achieve 8 or 9.

The Banker also calls a natural hand (*abatage*) with an initial score of 8 or 9, draws a third card with 0, 1 and 2, and always stands with a score of 7. With a score of 3, 4, 5 and 6 the banker must observe the rules in the Table of Play.

### The Player

with a score of :

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	draws a card
6, 7	does not draw a card
8, 9	does not draw a card and declares a natural hand ( <i>abatage</i> ), which stops the Banker from drawing any more cards

### The Banker

with a score of:

0, 1, 2	always draws a card unless a natural hand ( <i>abatage</i> ) has been declared
8, 9	does not draw a card and declares a natural hand ( <i>abatage</i> )

with a score of:	draws a card if the Player drew a:	does not draw a card if the Player drew an:
3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	8
4	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1, 8, 9, 10
5	4, 5, 6, 7	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
6	6, 7	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

Any mistakes that may occur when playing a hand should be corrected by reconstructing play according to the rules in the Table of Play.