



# EMPERORS PALACE

THE PALACE OF DREAMS

A PEERMONT RESORT

## GAMING GUIDE

# HOW TO PLAY PUNTO BANCO



The game of Punto Banco (also known as Baccarat) is a sociable game and usually attracts the kind of player who enjoys a certain amount of prestige. Punto Banco has a magic all of its own with its elaborate setting giving the impression of exclusiveness and glamour.

Punto Banco is purely a game of chance and the attraction of this game is the high betting stakes and the fact that the house edge against the players is one of the lowest of any casino game. The game is based on a simple contest between two opponents, the "Player" (Punto) and the "Bank" (Banco). Punto Banco is situated in the exclusive salon privé, the Palace Court Privé. A slightly different version of this game, Midi Punto Banco, which can be found on the main Casino floor and in the Velarium Casino, will be described at a later stage in this guide.

As an important guest of Emperors Palace, this guide has been provided for your convenience but please always feel free to ask questions. Should you require assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon the Casino personnel, including the dealers.

*Good luck and enjoy Punto Banco!*

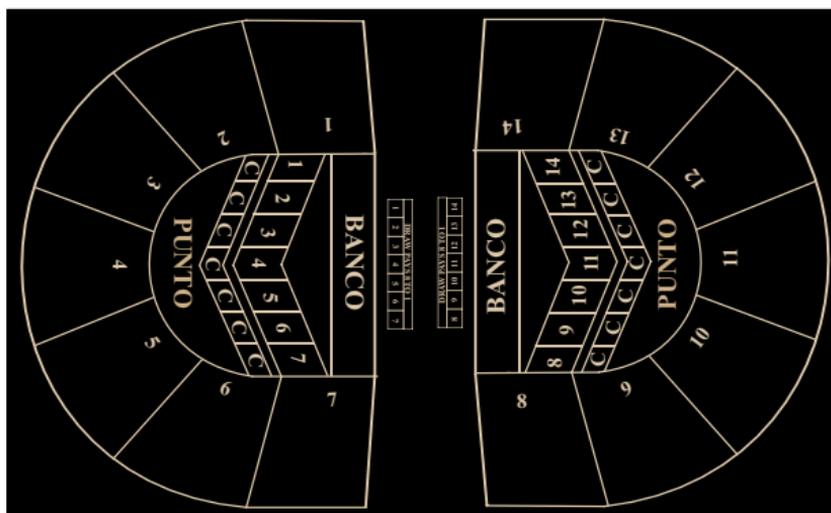
## **The Table**

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The minimum and maximum stakes are clearly displayed at the table and chips may be purchased from the dealer.

The Punto Banco table resembles the shape of an hourglass - a rectangle with indentations on the sides and semicircles at both ends. The game consists of three dealers - the Palette dealer who is in charge of the game and two Base dealers who pay out the winning bets. An inspector sits in a high chair and settles any disputes that may arise.

A maximum of 14 seated players may participate in the game. Should the seats be occupied, standing players may place a bet on the Punto section of the table and have the dealers assist them in the placing of bets on the demarcated position for Banco and Tie bets. Next is a diagram of the table layout:



You may bet on the Punto (Player) hand or the Banco (Bank) hand - or a "Tie" hand (both hands having the same point value). The table layout is easy to understand:

At each end of the table, arranged in a semicircle, are seven large numbered boxes (1 - 7 and 8 - 14). Choose any number to play and seat yourself in the corresponding chair. This numbered box is an area in which to place your stock of chips.

Above these large numbered boxes is an area with the word "PUNTO" inscribed. Should you wish to bet on the Player hand, place your chips in this section in front of your number.

Above the Punto area are seven small boxes each containing the letter "C". This is known as the "change box". Whenever change is given (amounts under the minimum bet), the dealer places the player's "change" in his corresponding

number change box. Normally a player prefers to leave his change in this box rather than have them mixed up with his stock of chips. These change boxes are also used by the dealers to take the Casino's 5% commission on a Bank win.

Above the change boxes are seven numbered boxes with the words "BANCO" inscribed above. Should you wish to bet on the Bank hand winning, place your chips inside your corresponding box number.

Above the word Banco is the final set of boxed numbers inscribed with the words "TIE PAYS 8 TO 1". You might decide that both the Bank and Player hand will have the same point value and choose to bet on Tie (also known as *égalité*). Should you wish to do so, place your chips on your corresponding number in this section.

## The Play

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In the game, players, in turn, act on behalf of the Bank (and are known as the Banker), and the dealer acts on behalf of the Player. Once all bets are placed, the Palette dealer calls "no more bets" and "cards please". The Banker deals four cards from the Shoe (a box holding the decks of cards) and slides them face up to the Palette dealer (the Player hand is always placed on the opposite side of the table to the Shoe). The first card is for the Player hand, the second card is for the Bank hand, the third card for the Player hand and the fourth card for the Bank hand.

According to specific rules, should there be a "natural winner" (which is described further on), no more cards may be dealt. If there is no natural winner, and depending on the totals of each hand, the Palette dealer requests a third card for either the Player hand or the Bank hand, or both

hands. The Palette dealer announces the result of the game and the winning hand is the one with a point value closest to 9. The Base dealers collect the losing bets and pay the winning bets.

The player continues to deal the cards as Banker until the Bank hand loses. The Shoe is then moved to the next player on the right, always in an anti-clockwise direction. A Player acting on behalf of the Bank must have a compulsory bet on either the Punto or the Banco. A player cannot draw the cards if he only has a bet on the Tie.

## The Table

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The object of the game is to draw a perfect hand - one worth 9 points. This hand is called a "natural". Point totals of 8 or 9 are called a natural but a hand value of 9 points wins over a hand value of 8 points.

The scoring is relatively simple. All cards, Ace through to 9, are worth their face value. For example, the Ace is worth one point, the 2 is worth two, the 3 is worth three, etc. The 10, Jack, Queen and King are worth zero points. To determine the value of a hand, the points of the cards are added together. If the total is greater than 10, the left-hand digit is dropped and only the right-hand digit is counted. For example:

$$J + 10 = 20$$

$$7 + 4 = 11$$

$$10 + 3 + 6 \text{ (third card)} = 19$$

The point value is 0

The point value is 1

The point value is 9

After the initial deal, a precise set of rules determines if a third card is drawn to either the Player or Bank hands. In the initial hand (the first two cards drawn to each hand), should the Player hand total 0 to 5 points he must draw an additional card (unless the

Bank hand holds a natural). If the hand is worth 6 or 7 points, the Player must “stand” (no more cards drawn). Of course, if the hand is worth 8 or 9 points, the Player stands as he has a natural hand.

Next is a table explaining the rules for the Player hand:

<b>PLAYER HAND</b>	
WHEN PLAYER'S INITIAL TWO CARDS TOTAL:	ACTION:
0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	Draws (Unless Bank has 8 or 9)
6 - 7	Stands
8 - 9	Naturals - must stand

The instructions for the Bank hand are a little more complicated because they are influenced by whether the Player hand draws a third card and what that third card is.

<b>BACK HAND</b>		
WHEN BANK'S INITIAL TWO CARDS TOTAL:	ACTION: Bank draws when Player's third card is:	ACTION: Bank stands when Player's third card is:
3	0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 9 (or when player stands on 6 or 7)	8
4	2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 (or when player stands on 6 or 7)	0 - 1 - 8 - 9
5	4 - 5 - 6 - 7 (or when player stands on 6 or 7)	0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 8 - 9
6	6 - 7	0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 8 - 9 (or when player stands on 6 or 7)
7	Stands	
8 - 9	Naturals - must stand	
0 - 1 - 2	Draws (unless Player has 8 or 9)	

There are virtually no decisions for players to make beyond the placing of a bet as all Punto Banco hands are played according to the above set of rules (regardless of the player's knowledge of the game). The dealer simply announces the situation and the appropriate rule.

## **The Payout**\_\_\_\_\_

Winning Bank hands are paid 19 to 20. Winning Player hands are paid 1 to 1 (even money). Winning Tie hands are paid 8 to 1. Should there be a tie, players who have a bet on either the Player or the Bank, neither win nor lose.

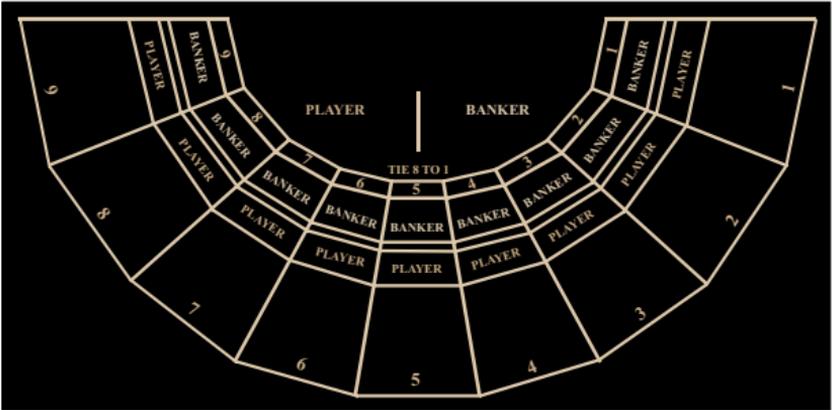
## **Midi Punto Banco**\_\_\_\_\_

Playing Midi Punto Banco is a great way to learn the game of Punto Banco. The game is played on a table similar to that of a Blackjack table - just bigger in size with nine boxes and seats available for players. As in Punto Banco, the aim of the game is to choose whether the Bank hand or the Player hand will win (or if there will be a Tie) and the one which has a point total of 9 or closest to 9, is the winning hand.

Although the rules of Punto Banco and Midi Punto Banco are the same, in Midi Punto Banco it is the dealer who deals instead of the players. As a result, Midi Punto Banco is a much faster game than Punto Banco.

## The Table

The minimum and maximum stakes are clearly displayed at the table and chips may be purchased from the table.



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