

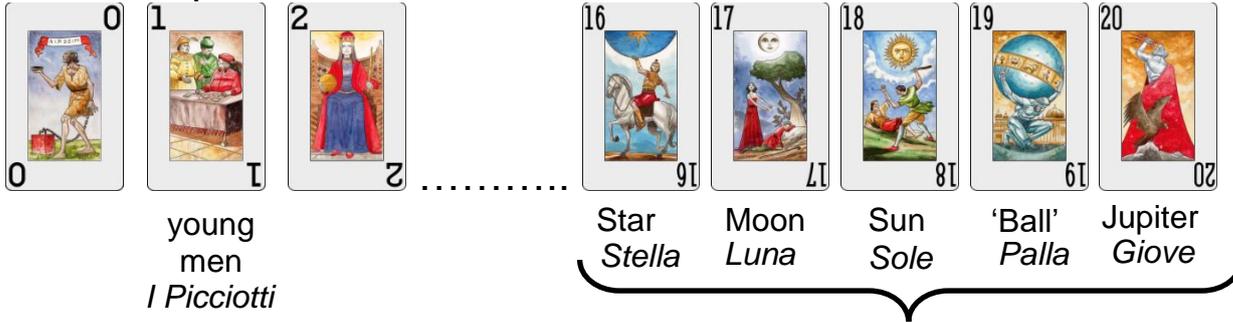
Sicilian Tarots

(we thank and refer as main source of most of the passages of this concise English version of the rules the complete exposition by John McLeod at the link <https://www.pagat.com/tarot/sicilian.html>)

Like all classic games played with Tarot cards, Sicilian Tarot is a point trick game with trumps.

Cards

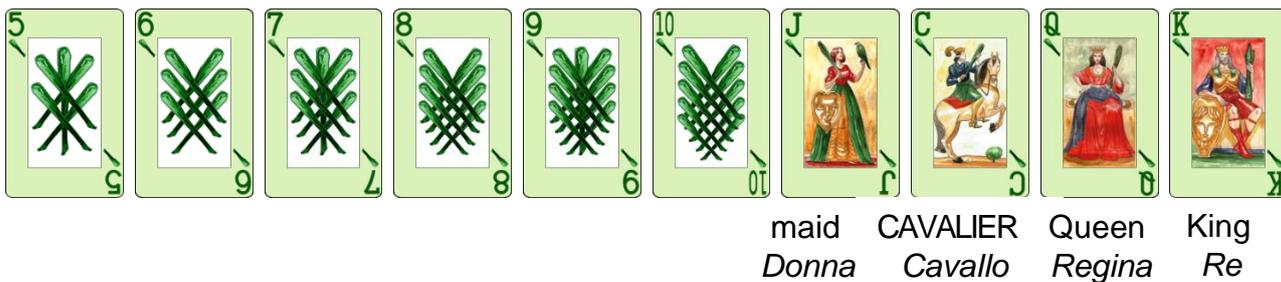
- 21 Trumps numbered from 0 to 20



- The Fool (★)

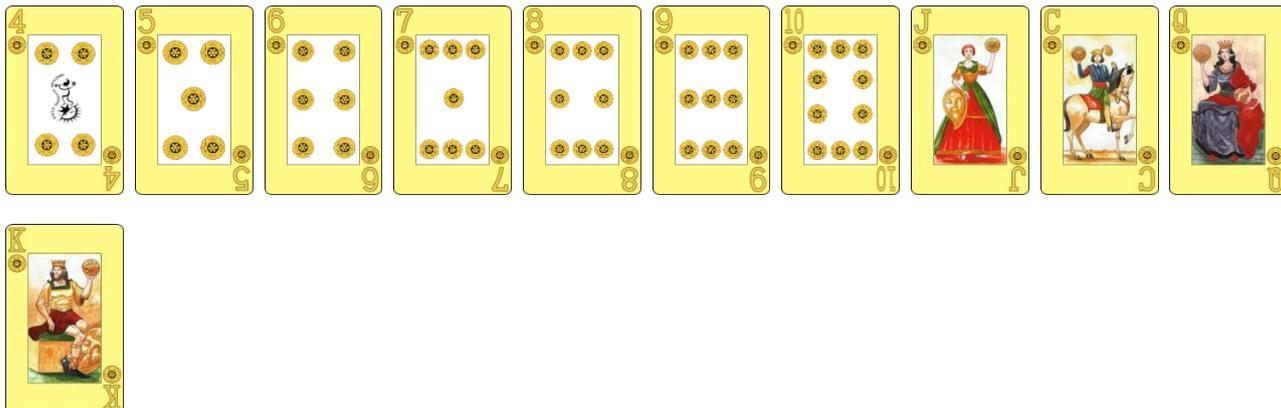


- 10 cards in each color suit (Clubs, Swords and Cups) with this cards **rank from low to high:** 5 6 7 8 9 10 J C Q K



but not in Coins/Money (Oro/Denari) with 11 cards:

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 J C Q K

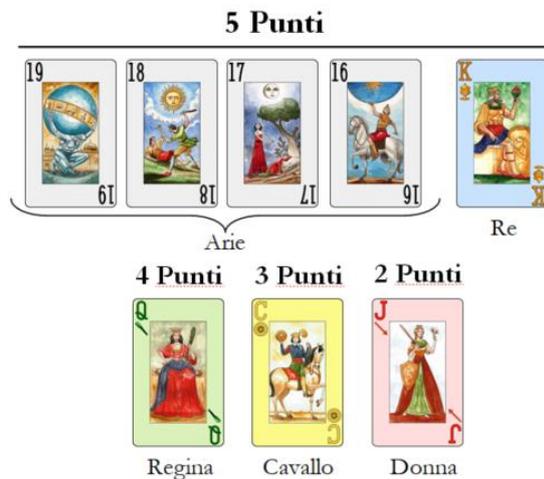


Card points (total = 109 card points)

In actual game practice, the counting method provides card values, for a card customarily **counted in batches of three with another two no value cards**. In this metode the values are as follows:

VALUE CARDS (CS in exemples)

- Trumps 1 (the 'Picciotti'), 20 (Giove) and the Fool (the 'Fujutu'): 10 points
- Trumps 16, 17, 18, 19: 5 points
- King: 5 points
- Queen: 4 points
- Knight: 3 points
- Jack: 2 point



NO VALUE CARDS (CQ in exemples)

(Trumps 0 and 2-15 and numeral cards in suits)

- Any other card: 1/3 point (three no value cards = 1 point)

LAST TRICK BONUS

- Last trick: 5 card points extra (for the player or team that wins it)

COUNTING CARD-POINTS EXAMPLES:

a) one Value Card (CS) and two No Value Cards (CQ):



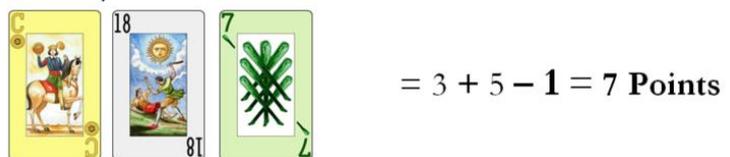
Example:



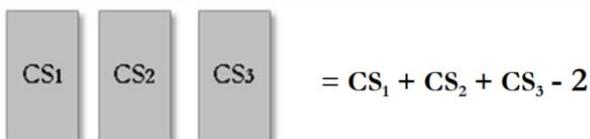
b) two Value Cards (CS) and one No Value Card (CQ):



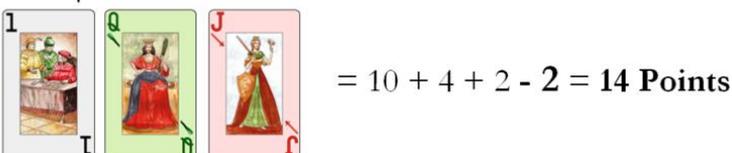
Example:



c) three Value Cards (CS):



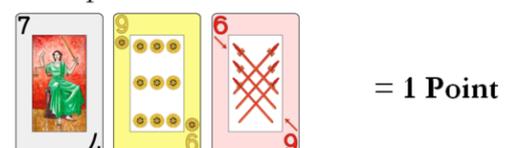
Example:



d) three No Value Cards (CQ):

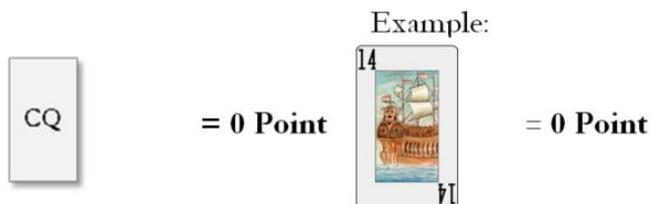
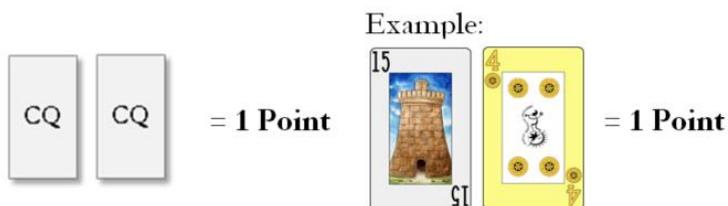


Example:



Finally, having always the foresight to **leave some No Value Cards as any residuals of 1 or 2 cards**, are counted:

e) two No Value Card (CQ) or one No Value Card (CQ)



Goals of the game (for each team of opponents)

- 'Rimaura' (most Card-points, ≥ 55) : 1 Victory-point ('Gioco' in Italian, Jocu in Sicilian)



- Vanto (Vaunt, last trick): 1 Victory-point



- 4 Re (4 Kings) - Final possession of 4 King: 1 Victory-point



- 4 Arie - Possession of 4 'Arie' (Trumps 16, 17, 18, 19): 1 Victory-point



- 5 Arie - Possession of Trump 20 together with 4 'Arie': 1 Victory-point



- Pigliate (Captured Trumps 1 or 16, 17, 18, 19 to the opponent team: 1 Victory-point for each



Other goals (if you bet these at the beginning):

- **Scommessa** ('The Bet'), final possession of 1, 20 and Fool (bid if there was already in hand at least 20 and Fool)



- **Rivanto** (Re-vaunt, last trick declared): 1 Victory-point added



The deal and the bids

In the four-player version of the Mineo game, most deals are played two against two in variable partnerships chosen by calling a card. It is also possible for one person to play alone against a team of three opponents:

- anticlockwise in batches of 5 cards at a time, beginning to dealer's right
- after the first round of the deal, the dealer pauses and the players look at their 5 cards and speak in turn, beginning with the player to dealer's right. The options are (with the corresponding tiles to be played in the digital version):

- **Vado solo** (*I play alone*). On the basis of the first five cards, the player undertakes to play a solo, playing alone against the other three players. The deal is completed without further announcements. The final score will be doubled.



- **Passo** (*Pass*). The player does not wish to commit to playing alone at this stage, and the deal should continue.



- two more rounds of 5 cards each are dealt and the last three cards are placed face down on the space provided in the Deck window, forming the Stack (the *Monte*). Only the dealer can now secretly look at the three cards of the Monte. Each player now has 15 cards and if Solo was not

bid after the first round of the deal there is a round of bidding, beginning again with the player to dealer's right, in which the possibilities are:

- **Passo** (*Pass*). The player does not want to play, even with the help of a partner.



- **Chiamo...** (*I Call*). The player wishes to play with the help of a partner, and names the highest trump that they do not hold: they must call the 20 if they do not have it; if they have the 20 they must call the 19 if they do not have it; holding 20-19 but not the 18 they call the 18, and so on.



- **Vado solo** (*I play alone*). The player undertakes to play alone against the other three players.



Each player has just one chance to speak. If a player calls a trump, subsequent players must either pass or say '*vado solo*', which supersedes the call. If a player says '*vado solo*' that ends the bidding.

If all four players pass the player who holds the 20 (Giove) is forced to call, but has the advantage of first showing and taking the *Monte* and discarding and then calling the highest missing Trump.

Calling and Exchanging the Monte

If the final bid was a Call (*Chiamo*), the holder of the called trump becomes the bidder's partner, but is not allowed to reveal their identity until the called trump appears in the course of play. The *Monte* is then turned up for all to see. If the called trump is in the *Monte*, the caller has no partner and has to play alone against the other three players, as 'forced alone'.

In digital version can replace the calling tile with the tile:

- **Solo forzato** (*forced alone*)



In a *Solo* there is of course no calling. The *Monte* is exposed and picked up by the soloist.

The player who picked up the *Monte* must then discard three cards face down under those restrictions: it is illegal to discard any Trumps, the Fool (Fujutu) or any King. Other cards in the suits (Queens [Q], Cavaliers [C], Maids [J] and numeral cards) may be discarded, and any points in these discarded cards count towards the soloist's tricks.

The Bets and the Play

After discarding the soloist says '*fatto è*' (*it's done*) when ready for the play to begin. Before the first lead there are two types of announcement that can be made, exposed in 'Other goals' paragraph:

- the Soloist can announce **Scommessa** (1+20+Fool). Since the 20 and Fool cannot be lost, to make this announcement the soloists normally needs to hold these two cards, and either to hold the 1 and expect to bring it home or (more rarely) to be confident of capturing the 1 from the opponents.



- an opponent of the soloist can announce **Rivanto**, which doubles the score for winning the last trick.



The player to the right of the soloist (or of the caller) always leads to the first trick, so that the soloist plays last to this first trick.

- the player to the bidder's right leads to the first trick (any card except the Fool may be led to a trick)
- the others must follow suit if able to
- if unable to follow suit must play a trump if they have one, and there is no obligation to overtake cards played by the previous player
- If one cannot follow suit nor play a Trump, can play any card.

The Fool can be played anytime, without respect of the precedent rules. It is only shown to others and placed on the stack of your own tricks.

The card of the opening suit with higher position in the rank win the trick. If there are Trumps on the table the higher win the trick. The winner take the trick and play a new card.

Scoring

At the end of the hand the partners combine the cards into a single tricks-deck and settle up in *Giochi* (Victory-points) described in 'Goals of the game' paragraph.

The Soloist (or the Caller's team) form the side 'ATTACCO' (Attack) in the digital version; the Soloist's (or Caller's) opponents form the other partnership 'DIFESA' (Defence), and pay equal amounts to or receive equal amounts from the Soloist. Any achievement such as winning the last trick or capture of a counting trump by one of the soloist's opponents benefits both of them.

The players add up the *Giochi* won by each side, and the losing side pays the net amount to the winners. For example if the Soloist wins the last trick but the opponents take the majority of card points, and there are no announcements or scoring events, then each side has won one *Gioco* and there is no payment.

In the unusual case where a player announced a Solo after being dealt only 5 cards, all the payments are doubled.

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