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**Baccarat: The James Bond Favourite**

**By Joseph McNamarra**

Find out about the link between James Bond and his favorite casino game, the French baccarat or Chemin de Fer.

The casino game, baccarat, is one of James Bond's most recognized attributes along with the gadgets and the "shaken but not stirred" Martini. The charismatic secret agent has been described playing baccarat, or, to be more accurate, the French version of the game called Chemin de Fer, in many of Ian Fleming's books and their adaptations to the big screen.

The first novel in the James Bond series, Casino Royale, centers around a baccarat game that takes place between the agent 007 and the SMERSH operative, Le Chiffre, in a luxurious casino in France. Here is how Ian Fleming describes James Bond's attitude towards gambling in the Casino Royale novel from 1953: Bond has always been a gambler. He loved the dry riffle of the cards and the constant unemphatic drama of the quiet figures round the green tables. He liked the solid, studied comfort of card rooms and casinos, the well padded arms of the chairs, the glass of champagne or whiskey at the elbow, the quiet unhurried attention of good servants. He was amused by the impartiality of the roulette ball and of the playing cards and their eternal bias.

In reality, baccarat is less sophisticated than it is described in James Bond novels and films. The description of the posh atmosphere, the well padded arms of the chairs and the glass of champagne is quite authentic actually. In luxurious land based casinos, you will not meet casual dressed people around the green baccarat tables.

Baccarat has always been popular among the high society. In the 15th Century, when it first arrived from Italy to France, it was still known by the name of baccara, which is the Italian word for zero. Since then the game changed its name, new rules were made up and this gave birth to several variations: European baccarat played in UK casinos, the slightly different American baccarat played in Las Vegas casinos and Chemin de Fer, also known as French baccarat or the James Bond game.

The object of baccarat is pretty simple: two hands are dealt and the player bets on one of the hands, either the player or the banker hand, which will gain the highest score. While in American casinos,

## Baccarat: The James Bond Favourite

baccarat takes place against the house, in Chemin de Fer players compete against each other where one player acts as the player and the other as the banker.

In the plot of Casino Royale, the British secret agent and baccarat expert James Bond is hired to beat the SMERSH agent, Monsieur Le Chiffre, at Chemin de Fer. The purpose of the game is to increase Le Chiffre's gambling debts so that the SMERSH would kill him themselves. The baccarat game lasts for hours and ends with James Bond winning. Eventually, Le Chiffre is assassinated by SMERSH, but not before he captures and tortures Bond with the help of Bonds beautiful double agent Vesper Lynd, who had previously served as Bonds assistant.

The book, Casino Royale, has been adapted for cinema twice in addition to once on TV. The latest one will be released on November 17, 2006 and it is currently one of the most anticipated movies. It will be the 21st official James Bond movie and the first with Daniel Craig as James Bond. In the 2006 version of Casino Royale, Bond and Le Chiffre will be playing Texas Holdem against each other. Oh, the times

are a changing!

Joseph McNamarra is a dedicated fan of James Bond and an amateur baccarat player. You can read more articles, including reviews on the best online casinos at

<http://www.gambling-portal.com>

### **How To Play Baccarat**

**By Adel Awwad**

Sometimes taking a back seat to some of the more prominent casino games, Baccarat is one of the most easygoing and quick to learn games in the gambling arena. If you are looking to learn how to play Baccarat, you can feel assured that the process will be quite easy. Baccarat is gaining in popularity in the U.S. after enjoying many years of success in casinos around Europe. Most players are drawn to Baccarat's glamour appeal, as it is usually roped off in a separate part of the casino and can feature pit bosses and dealers in tuxedos. Further, with the rising popularity of online gambling, Baccarat is now accruing a whole new following among Internet players.

The way to play Baccarat is quite simple and learning how to play Baccarat does not take very long. There are two styles of play for the game of Baccarat: the full-pit version which features around 12 players and several members representing the house and who focus simply on the bets and deals. Then, there is mini-Baccarat, which is a small version of the larger game, which features one dealer, around six to seven players and less of an intense focus. The stakes are usually lower at the mini-Baccarat tables, but will usually get more people because it is less intimidating than the large Baccarat tables.

This is true of online Baccarat gambling as well. Players will tend to visit rooms where the stakes are not as high as those sites are fast-paced and often feature high rollers. Amateur Baccarat players will

## Baccarat: The James Bond Favourite

visit a site offering a variety of levels of Baccarat, so as to start on a beginner level and work up from that point. This is the best way to really get a grip on the game of Baccarat.

The key to learning how to play Baccarat is to learn how to choose a winning hand. There are two hands in the game of Baccarat: the player hand and the banker hand. Your job is to choose which hand will win. You place your bet and then two cards are dealt for each hand. Depending on the cards, more may be dealt; the goal of Baccarat is determine which hand is closest to nine. That is the winning Baccarat hand.

The dealer is the one making decisions for each of the hands following a required set of rules for Baccarat. Each card is assigned a numeric value and to determine the sum in any given hand; simply add up the number assigned to each card. In Baccarat, when the number is greater than 10, you drop the first number. At this point in the game of Baccarat, the player does not really have a say in how the game will progress. The bet has already been placed and it is simply a wait-and-see situation regarding how the cards will fall. The goal is to simply try and get closest to nine.

As with any game, Baccarat rules can change between the different online gambling websites and actual casinos, so verify the rules of the game before you enter any wagers. Baccarat is a simple game to learn, but a fun one to play. Its glamour and easy of play make it a popular game with the high rollers and as the Internet gambling trends continue to grow, average people are beginning to realize the value of learning a fun and sometimes exciting game like Baccarat.

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