



Tomate

Tomate, due to its simplicity, is a very popular card game in Spain.

- **Object of the game**

The objective of this game is, firstly, to win one trick in order not to receive *Tomate*, and secondly, to try to give *Tomate* to the other players.

- **The pack**

Tomate is played with a Spanish deck of 40 cards.

- **Number of players**

It can be played from two up to thirteen players.

- **Rank and value of cards**

The rank, from highest to lowest, is: ace, three, king (12), horse (11), jack (10), seven, six, five, four and two.

In *Tomate*, the cards have no value in points, and are used to form the tricks.

- **The deal**

Each player draws one card from the deck and shows it. The player with the lowest card is the dealer and puts three points in the pot, the *Tomate* amount, before dealing the cards. After the shuffle, the deck is cut by the player to the dealer's left and the dealer will deal three cards to each player, one at a time, anticlockwise, placing the next card, which determines the trump suit, face up on the table. The remaining stock is placed face down across the face-up trump.

After each hand, the turn to deal passes to the right.

- **The play**

When the cards have been dealt, the dealer, before seeing his own cards, can take the card that determines the trump suit, saying "I take it" and discarding one of the cards of his hand. If he decides to take the suit card, he is forced to play in his turn.

The player to the dealer's right, the leader, starts the game saying "I pass", if he does not want to play, or "I play", if he wishes. The other players, in their turn, have the same choice, being able to pass or play.

All the players that decide to pass leave their cards face down on the table. Thereafter, the leader or the next player in turn, if the leader has passed, starts the game playing any card. The rest of players, in their turn, must play another card with the requirement to follow and beat the suit led. When beating is not possible, a lower card is played. When the player cannot follow the suit led, a trump card must be played and if it not possible, he can throw any card.

Each trick is won by the highest trump played to it, or if no trump is played, by the highest card of the suit led. The winner of the trick leads to the next trick playing any card.

Fournier



Tomate

When all the players but one pass, any player, starting by the leader, can announce "I take the stock", taking three cards from the top of the stock to play with them. The objective of this possibility is to avoid that the only player that did not pass wins the pot without any opponent.

If the player that takes the stock wins, his opponents will put the decided amount in the pot as "reserve" for the next hand and if he loses, he does not have to put any amount in the pot.

Usually, in this situation, the hand is played as the player that takes the stock becomes a normal player, with the same risks and choices as if he plays his own cards. This situation must be decided by the players before starting the game.

When the players have played the three cards they hold in their hand, the game ends. If there is a player that has not succeeded in winning one trick, receives *Tomate*. If the dealer took the suit card, he must win, at least, two tricks in order not to receive *Tomate*.

- **The scoring**

Before starting the game, the players will agree the value of each point that will be the same for all the hands.

When each hand finishes, the players that have received *Tomate* will put into the pot the same amount that there would be in that moment. The pot is divided among the players that have won one trick, winning all of them the same amount. The player that wins all tricks will take all the pot.

- **The reserves**

The game is usually played as the total amount of *Tomates* is not added to the pot as it could increase considerably, making the game really expensive. Therefore, reserves are formed with a part of those *Tomates*, which are placed on the table next to the pot. When into the pot there is only the amount put by the dealer, some reserves will be added to it, that these added reserves will have to be of three or multiple of three. As a conclusion, the three points for dealing and the agreed amount from the reserves go to the pot. The amount of *Tomates* goes to the reserves.

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