

MARSEILLE CAT TAROT

TAROCCHI DEI GATTI MARSIGLIESI

TAROT DE LOS GATOS DE MARSELLA

LE TAROT DES CHATS MARSEILLAIS

TAROT DER MARSEILLER KATZEN

TARÔ DOS GATOS DE MARSELHA

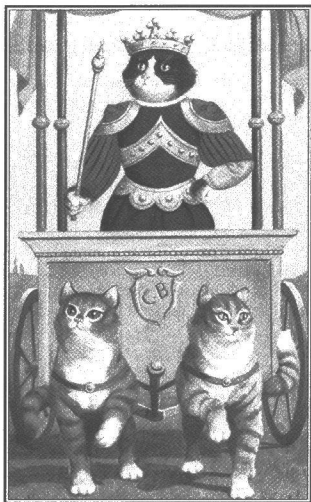
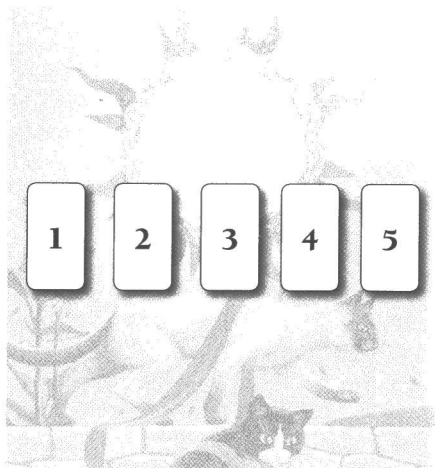


TABLE OF CONTENT

English	3
Italiano	13
Español	23
Français	33
Deutsch	43
Portugués	54



MARSEILLE CAT TAROT

In this deck we blend the nobility and heritage of the Marseille with the popularity of feline lore. You will soon discover our Marseille Cats give you a helpful bridge between decks based on the popular Waite-Smith design and the traditional Marseille. If you have ever struggled to read a Marseille deck, then let our cats give you helpful reminders of each cards meaning, and take you by the paw, until you can read the Marseille Tarot confidently and deeply.

In fact, you may find that the keyword meanings our cats provide here in this *little furry book* are deceptively powerful. This is because they were compiled from hundreds of real-life Tarot readers, based on tens of thousands of hours of real readings. There are many ways of reading Tarot; here we provide you a sneaky peek into what actual Tarot readers say when they are reading.

The Marseille Tarot

The Marseille Tarot can be seen as the grandfather of all Tarot and remains the most popular version of Tarot across continental Europe. Whilst it does not have the “illustrated scenes” of the Waite-Smith Tarot decks (and every deck modelled on Waite-Smith) it has a tradition and lineage of its own. The Marseille-type deck is also popularly sold as a “beginners deck” because the 40 Minor cards are simpler designs than fully peopled landscapes. However, this often confuses beginners because of the simpler designs – there are no ‘scenes’ to help intuition.

In the Marseille Cat Tarot you have the best of both worlds! We will briefly look at the history of this traditional deck, and then provide powerful keywords to help you read it quickly and easily.

A Brief History of the Marseille Tarot

The historian Thierry Depaulis, chairman of the International Playing Cards Society (IPCS), writes that the earliest mention of “Tarot de Marseille” was comparatively recent, in 1856. It rapidly became the accepted title of a style of Tarot deck which is generally seen as the ‘authentic’ origin of modern

Tarot. It was the term used by Papus (Dr. Gérard Encausse) in 1889, writing in *Le Tarot Bohémiens*, and soon became adopted by occultists and esotericists as a title for a range of European decks and styles. The strange fact is that most of these particular decks were never published – and were not designed – in Marseille.

There are now several recognised popular “types” of Marseille design; such as the Grimaud version (1930), which itself likely stems from a design by Lequart, in Paris. The other main types are the Nicolas Conver (published by Camoin), Chosson, Payen, Noblet and Dodal (published by Flornoy), Viéville, and more recently a version designed by avant-garde film-maker Alexandro Jodorowsky and Philippe Camoin, a descendant of the original publishing house of Camoin.

The Tarot de Marseille is often abbreviated to TdM and uses XVIII as Justice and XI as Strength.

The Marseille Cat Tarot is modelled on the Universal Tarot of Marseille, based on a deck by Claude Burdel, first printed in 1751.

Cats and Tarot

The cat sneaks into the Tarot with the Fool card of the Dodal TdM, jumping up to attack the exposed buttock of the poor Fool through a rip in his trousers. Whilst other TdM have a dog – which becomes the Fool’s Dog in so many Tarot decks, several versions of TdM have what appears to be a cat. This becomes depicted or described as a lynx, leopard, even a tiger in other versions.

So the cat is a constant companion on our own journey through life; a spiritual journey that the cat can see ahead of us, and provide us insight, communication and companionship along the way. Throughout history, the cat has been a secretive animal associated with the hidden world, just as Tarot is a secretive object that communicates with the unseen. You may view that as an unseen spiritual world, or the unseen unconscious world of the psyche. Many advertisements for Tarot, particularly in the early part of the 20th century, used a cat to promote this mystical aspect of Tarot – along with the pyramids, an owl, a gypsy and sometimes

a skull. This overlap of symbols occurs even in the present. The popularity of cat photographs on social media sites shows how our feline friends weave their way into our everyday life.

So to bring the cat into Tarot cards from the inside is a simple step, and there are many cat-themed Tarot decks, and cat-loving Tarot card readers! The cat is light of paw, and keen of sight, so we provide a little shuffling rhyme for you to say when consulting your cards:

*Light of paw and keen of sight,
I shuffle these cards and gain insight
Of that that passes in every time and place,
O Cats of my cards - now show your face.*

The Cards

For each of the cards we provide a single powerful keyword which has been drawn from real readers over many combined years of experience. We will then show you how to combine these words to perform readings with your deck, a method which may also be used with all your other decks, not just the Marseille Cats.

Reading Reversed Cards

For each card we have given an upright keyword and in brackets, a meaning for the reversed card, if you use reversals. Some Marseille readers actually only use the 22 Major cards, and no reversals. In our experience, we have found that a third of Tarot readers do not use reversed cards, a third of readers do use reversed cards, and the other third sometimes do and sometimes do not use reversals. So there is no overall agreement as to whether you should use them or not – or sometimes. You decide!

The Majors

- 0 – The Fool:** Frivolity (seriousness)
- I – The Magician:** Success (failure)
- II – The High Priestess:** Revelation (secrecy)
- III – The Empress:** Cultivation (harm)
- IV – The Emperor:** Endurance (instability)

- V – **The Hierophant:** Teaching (learning)
 VI – **The Lovers:** Union (separation)
 VII – **The Chariot:** Journey (arrival)
 VIII – **Justice:** Accuracy (mistake)
 IX – **The Hermit:** Solitude (companionship)
 X – **The Wheel:** Luck (bad timing)
 XI – **Strength:** Action (reaction)
 XII – **The Hanged Man:** Insight (confusion)
 XIII – **Death:** Life transformation (stagnation)
 XIV – **Temperance:** Union (separation)
 XV – **The Devil:** Attachment (liberation)
 XVI – **The Tower:** Acceleration (fall)
 XVII – **The Star:** Enlightenment (darkness)
 XVIII – **The Moon:** Ignorance (knowledge)
 XIX – **The Sun:** Clarity (concealment)
 XX – **Judgement:** Awakening (sleep)
 XXI – **The World:** Beginning (ending)

The Minors & Courts by Suit

We have provided a general theme for each suit and also a powerful keyword for the upright or reversed significance of individual cards. We will show you how to put these together in an example reading later in this booklet. However, the only limit to a good reading is your intuition and knowledge.

Chalices – Imagination

Ace: A cat looks in wonderment at a Dove descending from an ornate goblet. *Emotional Release/Stagnancy.*

2: A male and female cat sit beneath an ornate fountain, holding up a goblet in each paw. *Trust/Singleness.*

3: We see three goblets and a black and white male cat reclining beneath them, dangling a bunch of grapes. *Harmony/Disharmony.*

4: Four goblets are placed within a leafy motif and a pensive-looking ginger and white male cat sits on a leaf. *Distraction/Calling.*

5: A ginger and white cat wearing a black hooded cloak is crouched at the base of an ornate motif. There are five goblets surrounding the motif; three of the goblets have been

knocked over and the contents are seeping out. *Guilt/Innocence.*

6: Six goblets adorn the card and two cats, one dressed in a blue gown, carrying a star tipped wand, dangles by the hem of its gown from the top of an ornate motif; the other sits at the base of the motif with closed eyes. *Immaturity/Maturity.*

7: In the centre of a leafy motif a male cat climbs into one of seven goblets. *Release/Collecting.*

8: A male cat passes by eight goblets, carrying a stick, whilst looking over his shoulder. *Attending/Absence.*

9: A smiling cat sits snugly in a large goblet in the centre of nine goblets. *Fulfillment/Disappointment.*

10: Four contented-looking cats hang out around a goblet on its side amongst nine other goblets. *Ecstasy/Heartache.*

Knave of Chalices: A male ginger and white cat struts on by a palace, a chalice and cap in his paw. *Sophistication/Simplicity.*

Knight of Chalices: A cat riding a horse and holding a Chalice up for all to see. *Exhibition/Recluse.*

Queen of Chalices: A female cat sat on a throne wearing all the regalia befitting of a Queen. *Affection/Conceit.*

King of Chalices: A superior looking male cat sits on a throne wearing all the regalia befitting of a King. *Recognition/Forgetfulness.*

Pentacles – Resources

Ace: A male cat sits comfortably on a seat within a gold coin, which is mounted within an elaborate crown and plant motif. *Wealth/Ruin.*

2: We see an 'S' shaped ribbon with leafy foliage. Two gold coins embossed with a ship on waves fit snugly into each space within the 'S'. A ginger and white male cat balances on one leg upon the lower coin in order to reach a flower with the tips of his paw. *Organisation/Chaos.*

3: A male cat in the attire of a craftsman uses a hammer and chisel to emboss a design of a chapel onto one of three gold coins. *Loyalty/Resignation.*

4: A male cat wearing regal attire sits upon an ornate throne, surrounded by four golden coins embossed with castles. *Selfishness/Generosity.*

5. A ginger and white cat is dressed in a ragged cloak and carries a walking stick. Five golden coins embossed with a mouse nibbling at cheese are above him. *Poverty/Abundance.*

6. A young male cat dressed in fashionable clothing balances in the centre of a foliage motif where six gold coins surround him. The gold coins are embossed with weighing scales. *Resources/Lack of Resources.*

7. A young male cat lounges back on a leaf within a motif, he holds up a crystal ball in his paw. Seven coins embossed with sycamore leaves surround him. *Cultivation/Barrenness.*

8. A male ginger and white cat dressed in the attire of a craftsman is hard at work with a hammer and chisel embossing a gold coin. There are eight coins in all, the seven completed coins each have a hammer and chisel design. *Self-Confidence/Self-Doubt.*

9. An happy cat with a carefree attitude tries to catch a blue butterfly. *Selfishness/Sharing.*

10. A ginger and white cat sits in the centre of a foliage motif holding open a chest of gold coins, with an expression of delight. Ten gold coins surround the cat, each embossed with the following designs; house, dog, cat, mouse, armorial shield, star, ball of wool, cradle, anchor, fish. *Good Returns/Lack of Reward.*

Knave of Pentacles: A proud-looking black and white male cat dressed in fine clothes and wearing a curved brimmed hat. He holds up a gold coin embossed with three *fleurs-de-lis*. At his paws sits a shield. *Starting Work/Waste.*

Knight of Pentacles: A ginger and white male cat dressed in fine clothes and wearing a plumed hat is riding a horse, he holds up a gold coin embossed with three *fleurs-de-lis* with one paw and a wooden rod with the other. *Capability/Inadequacy.*

Queen of Pentacles: A female cat dressed in royal attire, stands before her throne. She holds up a gold coin in her right paw and a ceremonial rod in the other paw. In the background is a palace. *Nurturing/Neglecting.*

King of Pentacles: A superior but earthy-looking cat wears colourful royal attire and hat sits upon an ornate seat. *Obviousness/Hiding.*

Wands – Ambition

Ace: A sturdy cat's paw grasps a wand which protrudes from a cloud. The card has a flower and berry motif. *Advancement/Interruption.*

2. A ginger and white male cat climbs up two upright crossed wands. The background is a leaf and flower motif. *Planning/Ignoring.*

3. A black and white cat with a heavy swag-bag over his shoulder clammers over three upright crossed wands. *Building/Dismantling.*

4. Two male cats - a grey tabby and a ginger and white cat - cavort merrily paw-in-paw around the stem of a flower. Four crossed wands stand behind them. A leaf and flower motif adorns the background. *Welcoming/Loss.*

5. A weary-looking male cat leans against five upright and crossed wands. A foliage motif adorns the background. *Disconnection/Connection.*

6. A ginger and white male cat stands in front of six crossed wands, his paw under his chin and his crossed-paw stance suggests a look of serious self-importance. *Amusement/Weariness.*

7. Two male cats - one dressed in an apron and holding a jug and the other holding out a large leather pouch - stand atop seven crossed wands. *Invitation/Rejection.*

8. A ginger and white male cat is hard at work hammering nails into a wooden stool. Eight wands are latticed behind him. *Management/Misdirection.*

9. A ginger and white cat is peering out from a space within nine bent latticed wands. *Care/Approachability.*

10. A grey and white cat crouches on one knee at the base of ten latticed wands and works hard to hold them in place. *Work/Sloth.*

Knave of Wands: A ginger and white male cat in expensive attire holds a wand firmly to the ground. *Entrance/Retirement.*

Knight of Wands: A black and white cat is sat dressed in the attire of a Knight, confidently sitting astride a cantering horse and holding up a wand. *Advancement/Hesitation.*

Queen of Wands: A female black and white cat in royal attire is pictured on a throne firmly holding a wand. In the background is a palace. *Independence/Dependence.*

King of Wands: A black cat in royal attire sits upon a throne, he holds a wand firmly in his paw. *Authenticity/Falseness.*

Swords – Expectations

Ace: A cat's paw holding a sword protrudes from a cloud, the sword hoists up a gold crown embellished with flowers and jewels. The background has a foliage motif. *Swiftness/Fixation.*

2. Two swords are positioned to form a *mandorla*, an almond-shaped space, within we see two cats; one grey and one ginger and white, crossing swords across a flower. Four flowers are at each corner of the card. *Dilemma/Clarity.*

3. We see two cats; an angelic cat and a black and white male cat that looks up from below. One large sword is suspended in the centre. Foliage and flower motif. *Disappointment/Expansion.*

4. We see a black and white cat lounging on a leaf and flower motif. Four flowers on each corner. *Hiding/Truth.*

5. We see a wretched looking male cat, at his neck a severed rope is tied, a sword hangs Damocles like over him. Four flower motifs at the corner of the card. *Defeat/Winning.*

6. We see three cats floating in a coracle boat, one peers down into the water wistfully. Four flower motifs at the corner of the card. *Passage/Lack of Direction.*

7. We see a grey male cat at a bench, using tools of an alchemist. He holds a test-tube up to the light to check. Above his head suspends a Sword. Four flower motifs at the corner of the card. *Trespass/Integrity.*

8. We see a manacled and blindfolded ginger and white male cat. Four flower motifs are at the corner of the card. *Trust/Mistrust.*

9. We see a grey and white cat dressed in the garb of a Monk, he is studying a book. A sword is suspended in the space above him. Four flower motifs at the corner of the card. *Pessimism/Optimism.*

10. We see a headless ginger and white male cat, is holding its own head, a crescent moon rests in place of his head. Two Swords cross into the *mandorla*. Four flower motifs at the corner of the card. *Distress/Delight.*

Knave of Swords: A black and white male cat, dressed in fine clothes and plumed hat, stands with sword in one paw, and

its sheath in the other. In the background we see a chateau. *Obedience/Disobedience.*

Knight of Swords: A male cat dressed for battle rides a rearing horse. In the background we see a city. *Pursuit/Retreat.*

Queen of Swords: A female Persian cat, wearing royal attire sits upon a throne holding a sword. *Acknowledgement/Refusal.*

King of Swords: A male ginger and white cat wearing royal attire sits upon a stone throne, sword in one paw, dagger in the other. *Deliberation/Thoughtlessness.*

Reading the Marseille Cats

There are a number of approaches to reading the Marseille Tarot. You can use the key-words we have provided to perform straight readings for any situation by simply laying out 3-9 cards in a line, and creating a sentence or paragraph by associating the keywords together. Think of it as reading individual frames in a single movie storyboard or comic/graphic novel.

Example 5-Card Reading

"How can I make the most in the long-term from the forthcoming event I am planning?"

Cards: Knight of Wands – XXI – XVII – 3 Wands – 5 of Pentacles

Keywords: Confident advancement + Beginning + Enlightenment + Building + Loss

The cards suggest that I make a confident advancement and see the event as a new beginning. In fact, a re-start (World). If I can bring new information to the audience (Star/Enlightenment), this will provide a good step in building a long-term future, even if it results in a financial loss (5 of Pentacles). So in effect, "go bravely, even though it will cost you".

We also suggest looking to see how the cats are moving across the laid-out cards, as if you have real cats hinting and playing with your cards to show you an important card, a card you can ignore, and so forth. Perhaps the cats on the cards either side of one particular card are all looking at it? That would indicate to pay particular attention to the keyword of that card, as if it were written in capital letters.

May a full deck of possibilities be yours!

Recommended Reading List

Bursten, Lee, *The Universal Marseille Tarot Companion* (Torino: Lo Scarabeo, 2007)

Depaulis, Thierry, 'The Tarot de Marseille – Facts and Fallacies, Part I', *The Playing Card*, Vol.42, No.1 (July – Sep. 2013)

ben-Dov, Yoav, *Tarot: The Open Reading* (n.p., available on Kindle, 2013)

Enriquez, Enrique, *Tarology* (Roskilde: Eye Corner Press, 2011)

Goodwin, Tali & Katz, Marcus, *Tarot Flip: Essential Keywords for Beginners* (Keswick: Forge Press, 2010)

Goodwin, Tali & Katz, Marcus, *Around the Tarot in 78 Days: A Complete Beginners Workbook for Learning Tarot* (Woodbury: Llewellyn, 2012)

Jodorowsky, Alejandro, *The Way of Tarot* (Rochester: Destiny Books, 2004)

About Tali Goodwin

Tali Goodwin is the co-author of award-winning and #1 best-selling Tarot books, including *Around the Tarot in 78 Days*, *Tarot Face to Face*, and *Learning Lenormand*. She is also a leading Tarot researcher and is credited with the discovery of A. E. Waite's second Tarot deck, kept secret for a century, published as *Abiding in the Sanctuary*. She has also uncovered and published the *Original Lenormand* deck, and with co-author Derek Bain, the original Golden Dawn Tarot images in *A New Dawn for Tarot*. Her research into the life of Pamela Colman-Smith with new photographs will be published as *The Secrets of the Waite-Smith Tarot* by Llewellyn Worldwide in Spring 2014. She is co-Director of Tarosophy Tarot Associations (Worldwide) and organizes the international Tarot conventions, TarotCon.

Her website is www.Tarotassociation.net.

MARSEILLE CAT TAROT

Artwork by Severino Baraldi



translations by Studio RGE
and Priscilla Lhacer for Portuguese

Art Tarot

collection edited by Pietro Alligo
diffusion and marketing: Mario Pignatiello

All rights reserved. No part of this book and of this deck may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever, including Internet usage, without written permission from Lo Scarabeo s.r.l. except in case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

© 2014 Copyright Lo Scarabeo
Via Cigna 110 – 10155 Torino Italy
Tel: +39 011 283793 Fax: +39 011 280756
E-mail: info@loscarabeo.com
Internet: <http://www.loscarabeo.com>