



*This is your lucky night*

*Casino, a range of possibilities:*

*Gaming tables ✕ Slot machines ✕ Restaurants ✕ Night Club*



*The Art of Gambling*



"The Cheat with the Ace of Clubs", 1625  
Georges de La Tour (1593-1652)  
Oil on canvas  
38, 50 x 61, 50  
Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, USA

Most of the paintings of Georges de La Tour were of the Baroque style, characterized by 17th-century court and religious scenes. Strongly influenced by Caravaggio, de La Tour painted numerous night scenes illuminated by candlelight, which added an eerie effect to the settings ("The Cheat" is one of his brighter efforts).

During his most productive years, de La Tour was intrigued by gambling and some of the deceptive practices associated with it. During this time, he completed "The Cheat with the Ace of Clubs", as well as a virtual clone, "The Cheat with the Ace of Diamonds".

In addition, de La Tour painted at least three other vivid gambling works, including "Card Players", "Denial of St. Peter" and "The Dice Players".

This scene is interesting for two reasons. First for the strong depiction of women gambling with complete acceptance. Many 17th-century artistic portrayals confirm that European women were not excluded from gambling, either among themselves or with men. Central, though, is the obvious cheating theme. The ace about to be reintroduced into the game was "held out" earlier for use at an opportune time. The technique is known as "mucking." The date of this work renders it one of the earliest artistic portrayals of cheating at cards.

