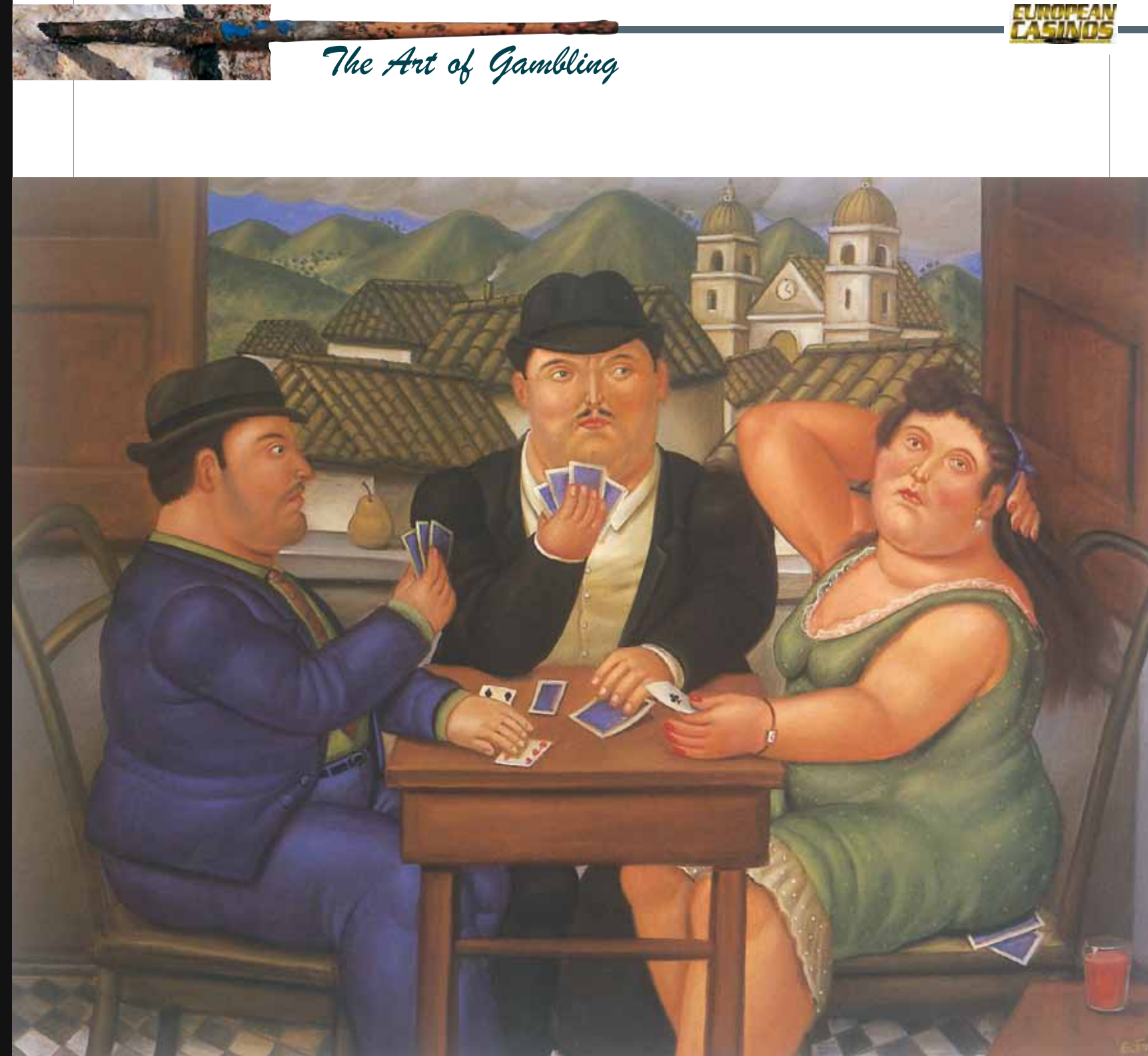


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"The Card Players: the cardsharp", 1996  
Fernando Botero (1932)  
Oil on canvas, 118 cm x 154 cm  
Marlborough Gallery, New York, USA

Fernando Botero, a celebrated artist from Colombia, was contributing drawings and illustrations to local newspapers as early as age 16. He studied in Spain, Italy, and Paris, where he spent many summer vacations. Botero's early stylistic influences came from Orozco and Picasso, but as his work matured, Botero developed his own style, in which all of his subjects are portrayed as oversized, "fat people in humorous poses", as they've been described by disparaging critics. Botero's interest in card games is established by a number of his paintings and drawings. Given that the woman here is sitting on cards removed from the deck, the focus of this piece appears to be impropriety or cheating. Three-player games popular in South America are *hombre* and Spanish solo.

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