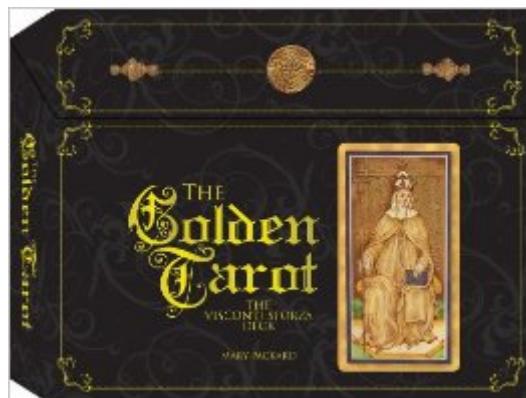


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# The Golden Tarot: The Visconti-Sforza Deck



## **Synopsis**

The Tarot is much more than mere pictures on cards, the pictures are physical symbols for spiritual concepts. The images are symbolic representation of archetypal forces and/or beings which have always existed and have been identified and passed on to us by ancient initiates and which provide a focus for us to use in self-initiation, spiritual development, and the perception of hidden wisdom. The tarot deck included in this beautiful set was commissioned around 1451 by the Visconti and Sforza families, and it is one of the oldest tarot decks in existence. The images on the cards have been faithfully recreated, showing members of the Sforza and Visconti families in period garments. The borders of the elegant cards are adorned with gold metallic ink. The accompanying book provides a history of Visconti-Sforza cards, 35 of which are now in the collection of the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City. The symbolism of the different cards is described, along with explanations of different ways to arrange the cards when seeking information about different aspects of life. This beautiful gift box holds the book and card deck side by side, with a purple satin reading cloth folded and placed underneath the book.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Race Point Publishing; First, Hardcover book, 78 card deck, 18" x 18" satin reading cloth edition (March 21, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937994090

ISBN-13: 978-1937994099

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (65 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,546 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÂ  Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Divination > Fortune Telling #54 inÂ  Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Divination > Tarot

## **Customer Reviews**

The Golden Tarot: The Visconti-Sforza Deck is a set that includes a reproduction of the Visconti-Sforza deck, a hardcover book by Mary Packard and a satin cloth. All of these are included in a nicely decorated box. Albeit some issues on the layout of the images on these cards, this set is a good value. However, it may not be for beginners, or even for owners of other Visconti decks that

expect something new. **THE CARDS:** The cards in this set come in their own black box, stamped with The Moon card on front and the back of the cards on the back. The label "The Visconti-Sforza Deck" is written in a matte golden color on the lid. The cards are 6.5" x 3.25", and together these make a deck 1.25" thick. The back of these cards is almost reversible, but the repetitive golden leaf motif on red background is oriented towards the top of the card. The front of the cards are bordered golden, with a red or brown frame around the image. The cards feel slick on the back and maybe a bit more textured on the front. I take that the matte golden border is what the description refers to as "gold metallic ink". There are no golden metallic effects on the actual edge of the cards as seen on some luxurious Tarot decks. To be honest, I wasn't expecting one for the price, but I was hoping that the cards were at least 6" long judging from the size of the external box. Since this is my first Visconti-Sforza deck, I could only compare the images on these cards to others over the internet, and these look good. If I look closely, it seems that the images were reproduced from photos of original artwork as I can perceive a canvas like pattern on them. Also, the edge of some images are not well defined at times, similar as having a painting on a cloth.

There are a few reasons I was skeptical of the new Golden Tarot from Race Point Publishing. The author, Mary Packard, is not a known tarot expert. The deck is a reproduction of the Visconti-Sforza Tarot; both US Games and Lo Scarabeo have published similar decks. The name, Golden Tarot, has already been taken by the beautiful medieval collage deck by Kat Black. Race Point Publishing is a new company with a very specific mission. They publish the sort of books that just don't work on your Kindle. Children's books, art books, craft books and cookbooks - books you must touch, see and feel are their specialty. Tarot is obviously a good fit for them. I believe the Golden Tarot is their only tarot offering so far. The look and feel of the Golden Tarot makes me hope they will publish more decks soon. The deck and book set comes in a large display box. Inside the box is the tarot deck in its own box, a lovely hardcover book and a purple layout cloth in a cardboard sleeve. The set retails for \$30.00. This is an amazingly low price given the high quality of the set. The cards themselves are lovely. Most tarotists know that the Visconti-Sforza is one of the oldest and most complete tarot decks in existence. Given its importance in tarot history it makes sense that there should be a variety of Visconti-Sforza Decks available to us. The original Visconti-Sforza is missing four cards; the Tower, the Devil, the Three of Swords and Knight of Coins. In order to be usable, a reproduction of Visconti-Sforza needs to include replacements for these cards. The replacement cards in the Golden Tarot fit in beautifully with the rest of the deck. In fact, the Golden Tarot seems much more usable to me than my other Visconti-Sforza reproduction deck. The cards feel good in

my hands.

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