

JERRY'S NUGGET CASINO

The Allure of Jerry's Nugget Playing Cards



Jerry's Nugget is known for...

Prime Rib. Desserts. And playing cards. Yes, Jerry's Nugget is known for playing cards and it's been sought after by magicians and card hobby enthusiasts since the 1990's.

1970 Playing Cards

The origins of the Jerry's Nugget playing cards date back to 1970 when Jerry Lodge and Jerry Stamis commissioned playing cards to be used for the casino's live table games. The card's design was printed with the famous oil derrick and manufactured by the United States Playing Card Company located in Cincinnati, Ohio. But alas, they were never used because Lodge and Stamis found out the card's design was easy to mark for gambling cheats. They were boxed up and stored, never to be seen for 20 years.

In time, they made their way to the Jerry's Nugget Gift Shop to be sold for a \$1 a deck. In 1999, the last remaining box contained 144 decks and were sold and shipped off to a magician in Japan. Unbeknownst to Jerry's Nugget management at the time, the playing cards were popularized and admired by magicians because of its thin card stock and ease of use in performing card tricks. People scrambled to find the 1970's Jerry's Nugget playing cards, and sellers, buyers, and counterfeiters knew their value. A single, original deck of 1970's Jerry's Nugget playing cards, brand new and sealed in the box, were sold at upwards of \$500!

2019 Playing Cards

Many requests and inquiries came forward to Jerry's Nugget, regarding the 1970's Jerry's Nugget playing cards and if any were on hand at the property. The replies were always met with a general rejection of "No, we don't carry these unique playing cards and they are no longer available." So, in 2019, backed by a crowd funding source and in collaboration with Jerry's Nugget, the United States Playing Card Company, and Expert Playing Card Company, the playing cards were reproduced by popular demand.

Since the original card stock used to make the 1970's Jerry's Nugget playing cards was discontinued, the 2019 playing cards have a similar quality and feel and pay tribute to the famous oil derrick. Based on the differences of card stock, there are two versions available: The Modern Feel (produced by the United States Playing Card Company) and The Vintage Feel (produced by the Expert Playing Card Company). Both versions are printed in a variety of colors and can be found online at many e-retailers at an affordable price. They are also now available for sale at the Jerry's Nugget Gift Shop.

Sources:

Playingcarddecks.com

Wikipedia.com

Vanishingincmagic.com

Jerry's Nugget Casino – Celebrating 50 Years Book

