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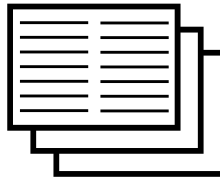
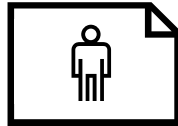
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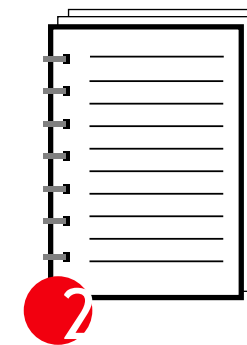
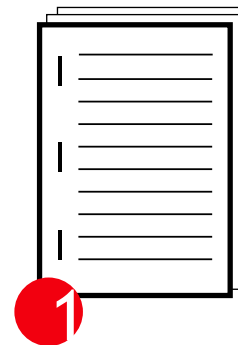
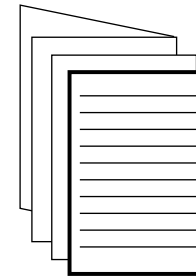
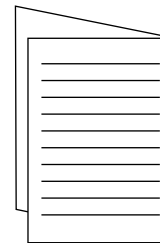
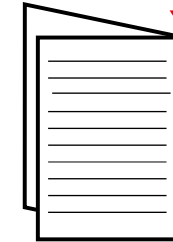
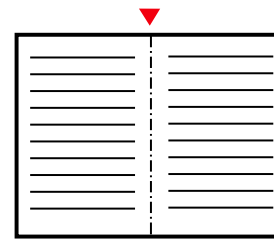
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assembling the guide



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THE MILAN CITY GUIDE





Summary



THINGS TO KNOW

3 History and culture



THINGS TO SEE

5 Churches and Museums
7 Historical buildings and monuments
9 Places and charm



THINGS TO TRY

11 Eating and Drinking
13 Shopping
15 Hotels and lodgings



THINGS TO EXPERIENCE

16 Events
18 La Dolce Vita



ITINERARIES

20 A special day
22 Shopping in Milan
24 Pavia and Vigevano

History and culture



Milan: the Duomo

The city's origins date back to 400 B.C when the **Gauls** settled in this area of the Po Plains, having defeated the Etruscans who were by now in decline.

When the city was conquered by the **Romans** in 222 B.C. and annexed to the Empire, it was given the name **Mediolanum**. After some attempts at rebellion, it became a permanent Latin colony (89 B.C.) and then regional capital (15 B.C.). Over the years, Mediolanum acquired the name "**Roma secunda**" due to its strategic position. After 313 A.D., the year in which the Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Tolerance towards Christianity, many churches were built and the first bishop was appointed: **Ambrogio** was such an influential person that the Church became the **Ambrosian Church**.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Milan was left to the mercy of the Barbarians, until it was conquered by the Longobards (also known as Lombards) in 569 A.D. Towards the end of the eighth century, the bishops managed to use the influence to full extent,

forcing an alliance with the emperors: Ottone of Saxony, who was crowned King of Italy in the **Church of Sant'Ambrogio**, made this power even more legitimate.

In the first half of the year 1000, The **Archbishop of Milan** became the most powerful political figure in the whole of Northern Italy. After a series of political problems, Milan became a **municipality** (1117), and gradually freed itself from the Archbishop. It also began to expand by declaring war on other municipalities in the nearby area. Later the attempt by Frederick I of Swabia to take over the city gave rise to the birth of the **Lombard League**, which fought for the city's independence, and which ended in 1176 after the defeat of Barbarossa.

From 1200 onwards, Milan became an increasingly important city, and finally changed from being a municipality to a "Seigneurie". The city walls were extended, new buildings were built and roads were paved. The **Visconti** family, noblemen from Bergamo, Cremona, Piacenza, Brescia and Parma came to power in 1300 and brought about a lengthy period of splendor and wealth for the city. Monuments were built, including the famous Duomo in 1386, that soon became the city's symbol. The Sforza family took over from the Viscontis, and with them they brought peace after many years of warring against Venice and Florence. Milan developed sciences, art and literature under the Sforza Duchy: Leonardo da Vinci and "il Bramante" were called to the Court of **Ludovico il Moro**. When Charles V came to the throne in 1535, the city began a period of almost two centuries of Spanish rule, which is narrated by **Alessandro Manzoni** in his classic book "I Promessi Sposi" (The Betrothed). At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the **Austrians** arrived in Milan: Milan underwent a deep cultural change under Austrian rule. The La Scala Theater - where Giuseppe Verdi

made his debut - was built, together with many Neoclassical buildings and the Arco della Pace.

In 1859, the Austrians were driven out of Milan and the city was annexed to the Kingdom of Piedmont, which then became the **Kingdom of Italy** in 1861.

Milan was immediately chosen as the economic and cultural capital of Italy, and has maintained this title up to modern days.

Churches and Museums



Milan: Basilica of Sant' Ambrogio

From the ancient Basilica of Sant' Ambrogio to the huge, majestic Duomo: the greatest symbols of religion in Milan:

The Duomo

The most outstanding example of Gothic-Lombard architecture, the Duomo dates back to 1300. It was built on the wishes of Gian Galeazzo Visconti. This imposing religious building, second only to St Peter's Cathedral in Rome, houses almost 3500 statues that are spread over an area of almost 12,000 square meters. The tallest spire, which has the famous "Madonnina" on top of it, is 108 meters high. The statue of the Virgin Mary, the "Madonnina", is covered in 3900 pieces of gold leaf.

Basilica of Sant' Ambrogio

This is the symbol of Milan's religiousness. It was built in 379 A.D. in the Romanesque-Lombard style, and was consecrated by the famous Bishop Ambrogio, who lent his name to the Ambrosian Church. Inside there are valuable artifacts and works of art that

tell the story of about 1600 years of Milan's history.

Basilica of Sant' Eustorgio

A wonderful medieval religious building that was built at the beginning of the fourth century on the wishes of the Bishop Eustorgio who brought the remains of the wise kings here from Constantinople, that can still be seen in the Chapel bearing their name today.

Basilica of San Lorenzo Maggiore

This wonderful basilica, located opposite the Roman columns that are the only remains of a third-century temple, includes many different architectural styles, due to the various renovations that the building has undergone. The main elements are Paleo-Christian (for example the mosaics) but other more recent styles also stand out, including ones from 1600 (the dome) to 1800 (the façade).

Santa Maria delle Grazie

This church was built in the second half of the fifteenth century. It was only completed years later by "il Bramante" on the wishes of Ludovico il Moro. The famous architect designed the wonderful apse, the cloisters and the old sacristy. Leonardo da Vinci painted "The Last Supper" in the refectory, which is one of the most famous works of art ever painted.

A selection of the most interesting museums in Milan that must be visited:

Cenacolo Vinciano

Between 1495 and 1498, Leonardo da Vinci painted the whole wall of the refectory in the Dominican convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with a fresco of The Last Supper, one of the most famous masterpieces in history. This work of art has undergone a restoration that lasted twenty years and which was only

recently finished, bringing it back to its full glory and halting the deterioration that was turning it into a faded, shapeless stain.

La Scala Theater Museum

Founded in 1913, this interesting museum houses exhibits of various costumes and theatre sets that are of great historical and artistic value. Some rooms are dedicated to the La Scala Theater's architecture and the life of the famous composer Giuseppe Verdi, while others house ancient musical instruments, curtains and costumes that belonged to famous artists such as Maria Callas and Rudolf Nureyev.

Pinacoteca di Brera

The Pinacoteca di Brera is an art gallery set up in 1809 by Napoleone Bonaparte. It houses a great number of works of art that were "confiscated" from churches and convents throughout Europe. Works to be seen range from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries, and include masterpieces by artists such as Piero della Francesca (Pala d' Urbino), Raffaello (Sposalizio della Vergine), Mantenga (Cristo Morto), il Bramante and Caravaggio. The courtyard holds a wonderful statue of Napoleon that was created by Canova.

Pinacoteca Ambrosiana

This is Milan's oldest museum, which was opened in 1609. It is home to some masterpieces by artists such as Caravaggio, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello and Botticelli. The Ambrosiana also houses an important library which contains some ancient codes, illuminated manuscripts, and ancient books.

The Museum of Ancient Art

This interesting museum is housed in the splendid Castello Sforzesco, and is home to some of the most important sculptures that help to understand Lombard history and culture. The works come from a period ranging from the 4th to the 16th century. They include the funeral monument for

Gaston di Foix and the "Pietà Rondinini" by Michelangelo.

Museum of Science and Technology

This interesting museum, which is named after Leonardo da Vinci and which was recently renovated and housed in an old monastery, is one of the most interesting science museums in the whole world. 40,000 square meters of exhibition space for subjects ranging from astronomy to computers. The models and machines built to the design by the great Tuscan genius cannot be missed.

Historical buildings and monuments



Milan: Arco della Pace

Buildings and monuments that bear witness to the history of this city, the economic and cultural center of Italy.

Castello Sforzesco

The original center dates back to 1450, which was built on the wishes of the Duke Francesco Sforza. Over the centuries, the castle has undergone various changes, also due to the particular ups and downs that have seriously affected the structure. At the end of the 19th century, a major renovation was made on the whole building. Castello Sforzesco is a majestic building. Inside it has wonderful interior courtyards, built in Gothic-Renaissance style and incredible halls, designed by Leonardo, and frescos painted by master painters such as Bramante, who were commissioned by the court of Ludovico il Moro. The Castle now hosts important art exhibitions.

The Monumental Cemetery

This great cemetery was built around 1860, in a Lombard style and some obviously Byzantine

shapes. Among the statues, chapels and other works of art, we can find the graves of some of the most famous people from Italian and European culture, such as Alessandro Manzoni, Salvatore Quasimodo, Eugenio Montale and Maria Callas.

Royal palace

The Royal Palace, in Piazza Duomo, is a very old building that dates back to 1100 and which has been home to the most powerful men in Milan over the centuries, from the Viscontis to the Sforza family, the Spanish governors and Austrian rulers. Several temporary art exhibitions are held inside the building today.

Arco della pace

In the middle of Piazza Sempione there is this huge monument 25 meters high, that dates back to Napoleonic era. Arco della Pace is built in Neoclassical style, and is decorated with marble sculpture and Corinthian columns, and on the top there is a charming bronze "Sestiga", a chariot drawn by six horses.

La Scala Theater

A Temple to Opera music, built at the end of the 1700s over the remains of the Church of Santa Maria della Scala, from which the theater then took its name. Some of the greatest names in opera have made their debuts in this theater: Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Puccini and, in 1839, Giuseppe Verdi who moved to the Grand Hotel in Milan on that date where he continued to live until he died. The La Scala Theater, famous worldwide, stands on one side of the beautiful square that carries the same name. In the center of the square there is a monument to Leonardo da Vinci and on the other side there is the wonderful Palazzo Marini.

Columns of San Lorenzo

This is the only monument that dates back to the Roman era, which has managed to

survive up to the present day. These sixteen columns that stand opposite the Basilica of San Lorenzo are all that remains of an ancient Roman temple, that probably dates back to the 2nd century.

Places and charm



Milan: Brera

To discover the most romantic, attractive side of this city: from the picturesque views of the Navigli to the green oases in the center of Milan...

Navigli

The origins of the Navigli date back to about 1100, but this stretch of water was only made navigable from the Ticino to the center of Milan at the end of the 14th century, to help transport the marble that was needed to build the Duomo.

The Milan Wharf, that was an important commercial port for river transport for many centuries, was still working up to the end of the Second World War, and then closed permanently in 1979. Today the Naviglio Grande and the Naviglio Pavese (that connects Milan to Pavia) make up one of the most charming places in Milan, with the old, typical "case di ringhiera" houses, antique shops and hundreds of clubs standing on each side, that are invade the banks of the rivers from April to September with their open-air tables.

Piazza Mercanti

This characteristic square near the Duomo is surrounded by very interesting historical buildings that represent Milanese culture from the middle ages to the seventeenth century. These include Palazzo della Ragione that dates back to 1200, the Loggia degli Osii, the seventeenth century Palazzo delle Scuole Palatine and Palazzo dei Giureconsulti that stands at the top of Via Mercanti.

Brera

This is one of the most exclusive and fashionable places in Milan, that has an atmosphere vaguely reminiscent of Paris, with its artists, open-air coffee shops and sophisticated boutiques - full of wares for the home and handmade dresses that seem to be creations of sculptors and not dressmakers. This area, that could be described as "luxury Bohemian" includes Via Brera, Via Solferino, Via Pontaccio, Corso Garibaldi and Corso Como. Alongside it there are many eighteenth century palaces including Palazzo Brera at number 28 Corso Como that houses the famous Pinacoteca.

Parco Sempione

This park stands behind Castello Sforzesco. It is huge and fascinating with its lakes, meadows and little bridges. It is the ideal place to spend a Sunday afternoon in the fresh air. The Park is home to monuments such as the Arena Napoleonica, the Tower designed by Giò Ponti and the Triennale di Milano.

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele

This was built around 1870 and is called the "salotto di Milano" (The Milan Lounge): If you walk along its cross-shaped "arms", topped by the glass and iron structure, you can see old coffee-shops, restaurants, boutiques and historical bookshops.

Porta Venezia Gardens

These wonderful gardens can be found between Via Palestro and Porta Venezia, the favorite place to be for the Milanese on springtime afternoons. The gardens which were the first to be opened to the public in Milan, date back to the end of the eighteenth century and were renovated in 1880.

There are many monuments dedicated to famous characters from Italian history and there are also many botanical species to be admired.

Eating and Drinking



Milan: Risotto alla Milanese

Traditional Milanese cooking is made up of simple, meager dishes and perhaps for this reason it was banished during the ambitious 1980s. It has only recently returned to popularity. Milan is a city that lives off fashion and trends: there was Chinese cooking (that was obviously discovered here before it was adopted in the rest of Italy), then Indian cooking, then African cooking, followed by Japanese and Middle Eastern cooking. The Milanese people have now returned to their origins, enjoying the tastes with the pleasure that one feels when one returns home after a long trip. Now there are trattorias, inns and restaurants (including luxury ones) everywhere that offer traditional Milanese dishes to eat.

If you are planning to visit this city, don't miss out on the chance to try some typical food that you can find here in their original version.

We offer you a **typically Milanese menu** in our **guide to Milan**, from antipasto to dessert. Actually, from the **aperitif**, because

an evening in Milan cannot go without this ritual.

One of the many aperitifs that you can try out during happy hour is the classical **Negroni**, which is a little "aggressive" but is especially loved by the Milanese, made with Bitter Campari, Gin, red Martini and ice, that must be tried with a few snacks. After your aperitif you can choose one of the several restaurants in Milan that specializes in traditional cooking. We advise you to start with a traditional antipasto, made of **nervetti** (boiled calf's shank and knee cartilage cut into strips) and mixed with thinly sliced onions. As a first course you cannot miss out on the classical **Risotto alla Milanese**, made with a full-bodied beef broth (the original recipe includes bone marrow) and flavored with saffron. As a second course we suggest a classic Milanese dish: "**cassouela**", an extremely filling dish made with various poor parts of pork meat (tail, ribs, rind, feet and ears) cooked with green cabbage and other vegetables. If you are not feeling so courageous, go for a more traditional dish, a tasty **Milanese cutlet** that is probably nothing like you've ever tasted in other places: Milan restaurants actually serve a very tasty, crunchy cutlet, made with a veal chop, including the bone. Another alternative is veal tonn , that is a light, tasty veal slice covered in tuna, mayonnaise, anchovy and caper sauce. We recommend an excellent **Barbera from the Oltrep  Pavese** as your wine.

If you should decide to spend time in Milan that coincides with the Christmas festivities, you could end your lunch with a huge slice of **Panettone**, the typical local Christmas cake, that is even tastier if you eat it with traditional **Mascarpone cream**.

There are typical products from the province of Milan, including **Salame di Milano**, made from finely minced pork and beef meat, and many types of cheese too. **Grana Padano** is a famous cheese overseas, which comes from

the P  valley that includes the Lombardia, Piedmont, Veneto and Emilia Romagna regions. **Mascarpone** is also a typical Milanese cheese, that is an essential ingredient for desserts and creams, often mixed with other cheeses, salami or fish. However, the most famous Milanese cheese is without a doubt **Gorgonzola**, that rich, strongly flavored cheese that reigns supreme at the Milan dinner table. This creamy cheese, that has blue veins running through it, is used to dress tasty first courses (in this case mixed with mascarpone), and to flavor Polenta or can be eaten alone. Finally, we should remember **Crescenza** or "**Stracchino**", the soft, creamy fresh milk cheese with a slightly sweet taste, that is excellent when spread on a slice of bread or eaten with raw vegetables.

If you are interested in buying foodstuffs or wine, you must visit **Peck**, a legendary temple of gastronomy. In Via Spadari, where there is also a famous fishmonger's, you will find all you need to satisfy your taste buds and your sense of hedonism: DOP (certified origin) cheeses from all over Italy, all kinds of salami, extra virgin oils, aged balsamic vinegars, rare tea and spice mixtures, pretty preserves of food in oil and a wine cellar that is filled with the most valuable wines from Italy and abroad.

Shopping



Milan: Galleria vittorio Emanuele

Milan is Heaven on Earth for shopping lovers. You can find the best of everything in this city, especially everything connected with fashion and design.

Milan has a wonderful history as a laboratory of creative ideas: **The Polytechnic** and the **Accademia di Brera** have trained fashion designers and other designers who are famous worldwide. They exhibited their creations for the first time in Milan, often creating scandal and revolutionizing fashion with their own personal style, never going unobserved.

In this section, dedicated principally to fashion, we will offer you a small selection of designers born in Milan, or who started their careers here, contributing to the great name of Italian fashion in the world.

Giorgio Armani: born in Piacenza in 1934, the king of Italian fashion started his career in Milan, working as a buyer for Rinascente. At the beginning of the sixties, he left his job to dedicate himself to creating patterns for well-known designers, even though he

had no specific training. In 1975 he risked again, starting up the label Giorgio Armani for men and women and he was successful immediately. He built up a close relationship with the cinema world from the start, and was consecrated with his clothes made for "American Gigolo". A young Richard Gere was seen in front of a huge clothes closet, in the dressing ceremony scene, that was arranged in a maniacally perfect order. Foremost symbol of elegance in the 1980s, Armani is still king of world fashion today.

Miuccia Prada: Miuccia Prada, an anti-conformist who was politically active in the 1970s, took over the family company in 1978 that was specialized in bags and leather accessories, and revolutionized everything. Her bags became sought-after pieces and became part of the Milanese landscape. Here unmistakable, minimal-chic style won over the Milanese upper middle classes in the 1980s and 1990s. Her sports range, characterized by the famous "red line" made the label even better known and won over larger shares of the market. However, Prada did not want to be just a reference point for fashion: In 1995, she founded the Fondazione Prada in Milan, an important artistic laboratory and window for contemporary international artists.

Dolce & Gabbana: Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, born in the province of Palermo and in Milan respectively, are the most famous couple in the Italian fashion world. Their style evolves continuously, and is much appreciated by "chameleon-like" stars such as Madonna. They made their debut in Milan in 1985, in the boom period of career women, ambitious and squared-off, just like the shoulder pads that were used to pad their suit jackets. Dolce & Gabbana went against the trend however, and rediscovered the fuller Mediterranean femininity: rounded shapes, petticoats that showed off one's cleavage, loose, wild hairstyles. Sicily will always be a source of inspiration that will

win over grey Milan too with its warmth and sensuality.

Gianfranco Ferré: born in the province of Milan in 1944, Gian Grance Ferré gained a degree in architecture at the Milan Polytechnic. After traveling to India, from where he took his inspiration, he started working in the fashion world, with a rational, structured style that gave him the nickname "architect of fashion". The tailored cut of his clothes and the lines of his shapes conquered the world.

Versace: this name owes its fortune to the creativity of Gianni Versace, born in Reggio Calabria and who moved to Milan in the 1970s to work in the fashion world, designing patterns for other designers. Thanks to the managerial skills of his brother Santo, the label Versace was set up a few years later, a daring, aggressive label that is characterized by the unusual matching of colors and geometric patterns printed on silk. After Gianni's death in 1997, the company was taken over by his brother and sister, Santo and Donatella.

Hotels and lodgings



Milan: Castello Sforzesco

There are all kinds of **accommodation** available in Milan, for all budgets and needs. If you want a place that is close to all the most important artistic and cultural attractions in the city, you can choose from among the several Milan hotels. There is no end of choice in the range of categories: in the center you can find from 1-star to 5-star hotels. If you must abide by a tighter budget but you don't want to miss out on the comfort of staying in the city center, there are three possibilities: **bed & breakfast in Milan**, **room-rental** or **hostel**. If you are planning a mid-long stay in the city, why don't you rent an apartment in Milan instead, that are available for stays of more than one week.

If you are on a business trip, you are in the right place: many hotels in Milan have meeting and conference facilities of all sizes, both in the city center and outside the city too. Do you want to get to know the area outside Milan, as well as the city? Then why not choose a **rural country farmhouse** as the base for your trip? There are several pleasant ones between Milan and Pavia, that offer both accommodation and food to their guests.

Events



Milan: Women's fashion

Milan is considered to be the economic and cultural capital of Italy. A metropolis that has been the ideal setting for international events for decades, that attract professionals, artists and intellectuals from all over the world. Our **guide to Milan** has chosen a few of the most important events that are regularly organized in the city. If you plan to visit Milan during one of these events, make sure you book your hotel in Milan well in advance (at least one month): the city is literally taken over by visitors and you risk not being able to find a room free!

Milan, Capital of Fashion - from January to March and from September to October

The National Chamber of Fashion was founded in 1958 in the Grand Hotel in Via Vittorio Emanuele. It is an association that has some of the most famous names from the Made in Italy world as its members. It aims to promote and enhance the value of Italian fashion in Italy and overseas.

The Chamber of Fashion has organized events connected to the world of fashion for over

forty years. During these events, Milan is overrun by top models, designers, journalists, actors and politicians, and become even more trendy if that is at all possible. The most important events are the ones dedicated to women's fashion: in the months of February and March and September and October, the autumn/winter and spring/summer collection for the next year are presented. There are parties, concerts and other cultural events that surround the fashion shows.

Milano Moda Uomo (Men's Fashion)
autumn/winter (January)

Milano Moda Donna (Women's Fashion)
autumn/winter (February - March)

Milano Moda Donna (Women's Fashion)
spring/summer (September - October)

World Press Photo - from May to June

Founded in Amsterdam in 1955, the World Press Photo Foundation is an independent international institution for non-profit photo-journalism. An exhibition is organized each year in Amsterdam that shows moving, sometimes disturbing pictures that show the most important events from the past year. This is the most prestigious exhibition in photo-journalism and the works, once they have been selected, cannot be censored by the structures that host them. This exhibition goes on a world tour and stops off, in May and June, in Corso Como 10 in Milan, the home of the famous Galleria Carla Sozzani. The exhibition is free to all.

Triennale di Milano

Set up in 1923, with the intention of being the overview of the decorative arts and modern industries, and to stimulate relations between industry, production sectors and applied arts. The Triennale was soon found to be the mirror of artistic and architectural culture in Italy and one of the largest areas for viewing emerging trends. Its headquarters

have been in the Palazzo dell'Arte in Parco Sempione since 1933. It has an overall surface area of 12,000 square meters. The exhibition space amounts to about 8000 square meters. In recent year, the Triennale has expanded its responsibilities to fashion and audiovisual communications. On the ground floor there is the "Galleria del Triennale" for temporary exhibitions - 1,500 square meters of exhibition space - designed by Gae Aulenti. There is also a permanent collection of Italian graphic, architectural and urban design.

Fiera degli "Oh bej, oh bej" - December

On December 7th and 8th, during one of the festivities to honor Sant'Ambrogio, the patron saint of the city, the Fiera degli "oh bei, oh bei" is organized around the Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio (link to things to see - churches and museums) that is one of the most moments of the year that any decent Milanese person eagerly awaits. During these two days there are market stalls of all kinds, some of them similar to the ones from Senigallia, flower stalls and sweet and cake stalls, all full of color that attract and amaze. The name of the fair comes from term that the stall owners used to catch the attention of the people passing by.

Craftsmen's Fair - December

This fair was started up in 1996 and was immediately a success. Attracting visitors that wanted to look for original ideas for their Christmas presents. Craftsmen's skills are the main attraction of this market fair: products coming from all over Italy, and from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America too. the fair is a huge one and fully deserves its title as the largest event worldwide for craftsmen's products: 100,000 square meters of exhibition space, with representation from about 90 countries.

The Salone del mobile (Furniture fair) - April/May

The Salone del Mobile takes up an exhibition

area of more than 255,000 square meters inside the Milan Trade Fair District. It represents the products of more than 3100 of the most dynamic, creative companies on the international market and receives 260,000 visitors including economic and commercial operators, with more than 130,000 coming from 150 countries overseas. Alongside the trade fair, The Salone also promotes important side events, whose main aim is to enhance the role of design and to spread culture, and also to protect our artistic heritage.

La Scala Theater - from December to November

Opened in 1778, the La Scala Theater is one of the oldest, most important cultural institutions in Milan. It is still considered to be the temple of opera music today. During the theater season, it is possible to see operas, ballets and concerts.

La Dolce Vita



Milan: Aperitif "Negroni"

Not even the most expert *viveur* from Milan could possibly know all the **clubs in Milan**. There are hundreds and hundreds of bars, lounge bars, wine bars, pubs, cafés, bistrotts, pubs, wine cellars, live music bars and lots of others besides. The Milanese night scene is so wide-ranging and changes continuously, just like everything in this eclectic city. There are clubs that are furnished in hi-tech style, or that are inspired by the Savannah, with leopard-skin chairs, palm trees and pretend elephants' heads. Wine bars in minimal Japanese style and others that make you think you are in Bollywood, if you go by their music and furnishings. There are atmospheres for all taste and for states of mind: the Milanese love variation, and if there are still any habitués around, most Milanese people prefer the excitement of the unforeseen and new experiences. There are so many possibilities to choose from for spending your evening.

It often happens that a club transforms itself in a short time, changing from insignificant to cool. Clubs in Milan live on "word of mouth":

all they need to do is attract a few opinion leaders of night life and they've won! Apart from the great variety, what does Milanese Dolce Vita offer? One interesting thing is that Milanese night life begins very early: you don't have to wait for dusk to be with your friends and enjoy yourself. One habit that has become popular in the last few years is **brunch**, a ritual that originated in New York, and that has spread in Italy, starting from Milan. A combination of breakfast and lunch, brunch was invented to satisfy the "day-after" appetite of those who were out on the town until dawn. On Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 until 2 pm, many clubs in Milan offer lavish brunches: real binges of sweets with cappuccinos, croissants and French toast, or savory food with the classic eggs and bacon, or meat and cheese.

Another must of a ritual is **happy hour**, that the Milanese cannot go without for anything on Earth. From 6 pm to 9.30 pm in Milan you can drink cocktails accompanied by substantial buffets with several courses, pasta, meat or fish, in all the clubs in Milan. All this for about 5-7 Euro per cocktail. The areas that have the most clubs are Porta Ticinese, **Navigli** and **Porta Romana**, but even if you are elsewhere and you fancy a cocktail, there is a club offering its happy hour on almost every corner in Milan: whether you are in the center or outside. Here are a few suggestions of places where you can get a taste of Milanese Dolce Vita:

FOR BRUNCH

Diana Garden

The garden of the Hotel Diana Majestic, that is housed in an early-twentieth century Art Nouveau-style building that is one of the best in Milan. Excellent menu, spectacular atmosphere and regular famous customers from the showbusiness and political world. (Viale Piave 42)

Le biciclette

A former bicycle shop, with a New York atmosphere, minimalist, hi-tech furnishing

and exhibitions of photographs and sculptures. Brunch is truly excellent and top quality.

Tribeca Lounge

Cool atmosphere, show business world clientele, Italo-American buffet with several inviting alternatives.

FOR THE HAPPY HOUR

Magenta

One of the most famous, popular clubs in Milan. Right in the center and with a tasty buffet.

Roialto

For an aperitif in one of the most exclusive, glamorous clubs in Milan.

Volo

You must go here in the spring or summer, when happy hour moves outside in the garden, surrounded by its ancient walls. The buffet is top quality and rather filling.

Palo Alto

Varied buffet, perfect cocktails. A very crowded place.

Officina 12: Set up inside a former factory, a loft style with open spaces and overhead platform. There is a pretty interior garden and a full buffet. It is also a pizzeria.

Corso Como 10

A restaurant, boutique, bookshop, showroom, gallery and wine bar. An extremely cool place, housed in a typical Milanese house with interior garden. Ideal for a special evening.

TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR EVENING

Hollywood

This is the most famous discotheque in Italy. Models, designers, actors, politicians and other famous people all go there. Commercial music and dance floors for showing off your talents. Tough door selection, privé club off limits.

Loollapalozaa

Crowded, wild and funky. You can dance on the tables, drink rum and tequila, sweat and have a great time.

Alcatraz

In the north of Milan, this is the largest club in the city: hundreds of square meters of space lit up by one of the most sophisticated lighting systems that exist, live concerts and international clientele. Clientele of all ages.

Atlantique

House music from the most famous bands, a restaurant, a bar and a private club. A fashionable club opened by the designers Dolce and Gabbana.

FOR LIVE MUSIC

Rolling Stone

The rock temple of Milan. Here, in twenty years, just about everyone has paid a visit: - from Iron Maiden to Ben Harper, Black Sabbath and Massive Attack.

Le scimmie

This is a historical club on the Navigli, the first one that organized live music. Recommended for jazz lovers.

Magazzini Generali

Trendy live music, sets directly from London's rave parties, multi-media installations.

Leoncavallo

The most famous social center in Italy, where concerts are held by Italian and international artists, and where there are also food fairs and conferences.

A special day



Milan: transportation in Milan

Travelplan.it has prepared a special itinerary, designed for those of you who do not have much time to hand, but who want to visit this city, that is so full of cultural and social stimulus. Our 24-hour itinerary includes an evening for discovering the Milanese night life, therefore we recommend that you book at least one night in one of **Milan's many hotels**.

Milan, is not difficult to explore, in spite of its size: it is often possible to walk from one interesting area to another, and in other cases we recommend you take the subway, that will let you reach your destination without getting your stuck in city traffic.

Morning

Our tour starts with discovering Milan from Piazza Duomo, where you can admire the Duomo, that is one of Milan's most important symbols. Why don't you go in and climb up to the roof: you will find yourself surrounded by spire and late-Gothic statues, admiring the sight of the city that spreads out before you. From Piazza Duomo, go to the splendid

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele: you can have breakfast here, in one of the elegant coffee-shops inside the Galleria. We recommend Zucca, the coffee shop favored by Verdi and Toscani, with its second-floor windows that look out onto the Duomo and the Galleria and its luxury Liberty-style furnishings in wrought iron, mahogany and mosaics. After a refreshing breakfast, continue on your tour going through the Galleria and walk to Piazza della Scala, where you can see the famous Theater La Scala. If you are fond of theater costumes and sets, we recommend you visit the interesting Museum. Otherwise you can continue your journey. From Piazza della Scala, go on to the nearby Via Dante and walk along until you get to the majestic Castello Sforzesco. Behind the Castle, you can see Parco Sempione: if you don't feel hungry yet, you can work up an appetite by walking through the park. Once you come out of the park, walking through the Arco della Pace, you have two possibilities: look for a restaurant in the area straightaway, or go on foot or by taxi to your next stop, the Cenacolo Vinciano in Corso Magenta, and have lunch there. We recommend raw vegetables with **Crescenza** or **Gorgonzola** cheese to start with, followed by **Risotto alla Milanese** and then the traditional cutlet or a tasty pot roast.

Afternoon

The afternoon is dedicated to art: first stop: we suggest the cenacolo vinciano that Leonardo painted in the refectory in the **Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie** in Corso Magenta. After admiring this masterpiece, go on to the nearby Piazza Cadorna where you will find the subway to take you to the **Pinacoteca di Brera**. Get off at Cairoli (1 stop) and continue on foot (link to things to see - churches and museums). After you have visited the wonderful Pinacoteca, spend a bit of time exploring Brera, one of the most charming areas of Milan.

Evening

For a real taste of the unique atmosphere of the Milan Dolce vita you will have to go to the Navigli area. Take the subway and get off at Porta Genova. Once there, go along Via Vigevano up to the Wharf and start exploring the clubs that line the Navigli. Between one aperitif and the next, you will have the change to eat a real meal, serving yourself from the rich buffets that are provided at happy hour. Continuing your evening into the night will be no problem: you will soon learn which is the cool new club that has just opened, or which live concerts are planned for the evening. Don't give yourself a time limit: Milanese nights are truly unpredictable!

Shopping in Milan



Milan: Shopping in Milan

We can begin our itinerary from the heart of the luxury shopping area in Milan: **Via Montenapoleone**, **Via della Spiga** and **Via Sant'Andrea**, elegant streets that together with **Via Manzoni**, **Via Borgospesso** and **Via Santo Spirito** are the outer limits of the famous **Fashion Quadrilatero**. This area contains the most prestigious boutiques and showrooms in the world, full of minimalist design and high tech, that follow on without any end to this continuity, and provide a triumph of consumer stimulus that only a select few can respond to. In this square area, that is really extremely expensive, luxury is the true protagonist. Dazzling jewels created by the most famous name, clothes and accessories to die for, to be owned and flaunted, shoes that are works of art. Everything reeks of ostentation and the splendor of a chic, fashionable lifestyle. Many foreign tourists come to the showrooms and come out full of parcels, because Italian fashion continues to attract and fascinate the whole world, and Milan is the most representative symbol of all this.

Let's start from the most famous of all the streets of fashion: **Via Montenapoleone**. This is where you can find, amongst others, the atelier-showrooms of: Gucci, Versace, Salvatore Ferragamo, Fratelli Rossetti, Etro, Loro Piana, Luis Vuitton, Prada, Valentino, Cartier and Tanino Crisci. In **Via Sant'Andrea**, a street that crosses **Via Montenapoleone** you can find: Chanel, Fendi, Armani, Moschino, Kenzo, Cesare Paciotti, Hermés, Prada and Trussardi. **Via Sant'Andrea** crosses the famous **Via della Spiga**, where you can enjoy the shop windows at: D&G, Krizia, Sergio Rossi, Gianfranco Ferré, Bottega Veneta, Tod's, Genny, Prada, Bulgari and Chopard.

The equally elegant **Via Manzoni** is home to Spazio Armani at no. 31. This is the Giorgio Armani multi-concept store where you can admire the Emporio Armani showrooms, Armani casa, and Armani fiori. You can also sip an aperitif at the Emporio Armani Café, or spend an evening at the restaurant Nobu, with a dinner by the best Japanese chef to emerge in the last 10 years: Nobuyuki Matsuhisa who opened this chain of restaurants together with Robert de Niro. For more affordable purchases, there are four important streets in the city that are almost entirely dedicated to shopping: **Corso Vittorio Emanuele**, **Corso Buenos Aires**, **Via Torino** and **Corso di Porta Ticinese**. Corso Vittorio Emanuele links Piazza Duomo with Piazza San Babila, and begins with the Rinascente, the monument to Milanese shopping that owes its name to Gabriele d'Annunzio. In Corso Vittorio Emanuele there are sophisticated label shops, such as Max Mara, Moreschi, Bruno Magli and Pollini, but there are also more popular labels such as H&M, Zara and Furla. Corso Buenos Aires, that is one of the longest streets in Europe, connects Porta Venezia to Piazzale Loreto, and is even more commercial: here you can find Timberland, Mandarina Duck, Benetton, Kookai and Nara Camice. In Via Torino that stretches between the Duomo and Corso di Porta Ticinese, the average shopper's age is much lower and

the casual style is sportier, with Foot Looker, Camper and Energy shops all here.

The nearer you get to the **Navigli** area, which is the temple of street-style, the more the shop scenario changes. Corso di Porta Ticinese, a continuation of Via Torino that takes you right up to Piazza XXIV Maggio, is the right place for those "alternative" purchases: Custo-Barcellona, Diesel, Miss Sixteen, Gas and Fornarina stand alongside second-hand clothes shops, shops with bizarre objects for the home, handmade clothes and accessory stores made from silk and other precious materials.

Milan also has some interesting markets. Here are just two of the most interesting and characteristic:

Fiera di Senigallia in Milan is now an institution: every Saturday morning, Viale d'Annunzio, along the wharf, becomes a picturesque sight, full of noise, color and other smells so typical of flea markets.

You can find everything here: Indian, South American and African craftwork; new and second-hand clothes, old furniture, fake art nouveau lamps, perfumed candles and every kind of essence, books, comics, records, videos and DVDs. There are tidy stalls and messy ones where you can go looking for your bargain. The music of the Senegalese musicians is like a theme tune, as they pound on drums of all sizes, accompanying the people walking around with their frenetic rhythms.

Mercatone del Naviglio Grande

This takes place along the Alzaia Naviglio Grande on the last Sunday of each month. A large exhibition-market is set up that is dedicated to antiques: furniture, objects for the home, old books, jewelry, and lots more too. The market has 400 exhibitors, some of whom also have their own shops on the banks of the Naviglio grande.

Let's end our itinerary of shopping with a mini-guide to the **outlets** near Milan. One of the characteristics of Milan that shopping lovers like is the fact that there are many famous-label outlets in the city center that are usually only found on the city outskirts or in the provinces. Some of the ones in the center are: Diffusione Tessile, which is the Max Mara group's outlet, the Bruno Magli and Etro outlets where you can find items from past collections and also Luciano Soprani, Kookai, Valextra, a sophisticated suitcase company, and Bassetti, where you can buy all the bedding and linen you need for your house.

Near Milan instead, you can find the **McArthur Glen Shopping City** (Serravalle Scrivia, Alessandria), the Fratelli Rossetti outlet (Parabiago), Dolce & Gabbana outlet (Legnano), Timberland outlet (Pero), Levi's (Cernusco sul Naviglio) and Samsonite (Corsico) outlets, and finally Frette (Concorezzo) and Zucchi (Casorezzo) for bed linen.

Pavia and Vigevano



Milan: the duomo of Pavia

Our tourist guide to Milan offers two trips outside the city that each last one day: **Pavia** and **Vigevano**, that are about 55 km and 35 km away from Milan respectively, and which can be reached by both car and train. To visit these cities, you can therefore still use your hotel in Milan. Before turning to the details of these interesting cities, we want to spend a little time talking about the typical cuisine of the area known as the **Oltrepò Pavese**. You can find dishes linked to the local land in all the restaurants in Pavia and Vigevano, where rice and grapes are mainly grown. A typical local dish is fried frogs, served in a light tomato sauce or accompanied by a **risotto**. The local salamis, especially the one made from goose, are worthy of note. The Oltrepò Pavese is also famous for its wines: in the area you can find the excellent **Riesling**, **Bonarda** and **Barbera** wines.

Pavia

This ancient, interesting city is just right for a one-day trip outside Milan. The old city center can easily be covered on foot: walking

along the streets and squares, you can see the architectural sights from centuries and centuries of history. From the Roman Era to the Middle Ages, from the Visconti and Sforza eras to the Renaissance, from Neoclassicism to Liberty style.

We recommend you end your trip by seeing the wonderful **Certosa di Pavia**, that is 5 km outside the city, which was built around 1396 on the wishes of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, Duke of Milan.

Don't miss

Castello Visconteo
The Broletto
The Duomo
The Certosa di Pavia

Vigevano

This is a tiny architectural jewel that owes a lot to the genial creativity of Bramante. It is worth a day's visit. There are many things to see, including Castello Visconteo-Sforzesco, one of the largest castles in Europe. This is a true city within a city, with very ancient origins: the original center of the Castle dates back as far as the Lombard Era, and was renovated to become an aristocratic residence by the Visconti family and then by the Sforza family, with the artistic contribution by Bramante and Leonardo da Vinci.

Don't miss

The Torre del Bramante
Castello Sforzesco
The Duomo and the square



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