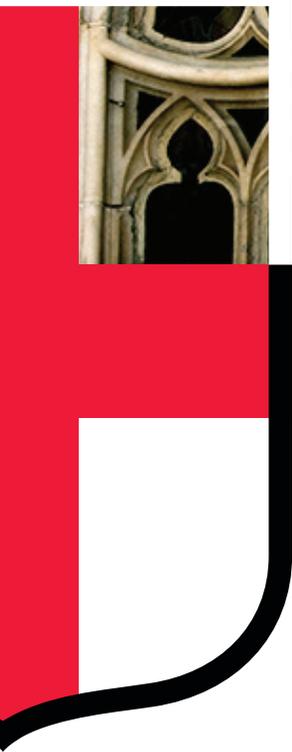


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Milano

guide  
to the  
city

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Updated in December 2015

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Welcome

Dealing with a great city like Milan demands a comprehensive overview, which is why we have prepared this handy, complete guidebook, offering the key to the treasures of the city and its surroundings.

We have chosen a simple format, ideal when strolling around the city, comprising 13 itineraries covering art, history, culture and nature. Essential, up-to-date information will guide you through the best the city has to offer, as well as to a number of unexpected treasures off the beaten track, just waiting to be explored.

This guidebook is our way of welcoming you to our city, and of thanking you for choosing Milan. We are certain you won't be disappointed. For centuries, Milan has captured the interest of

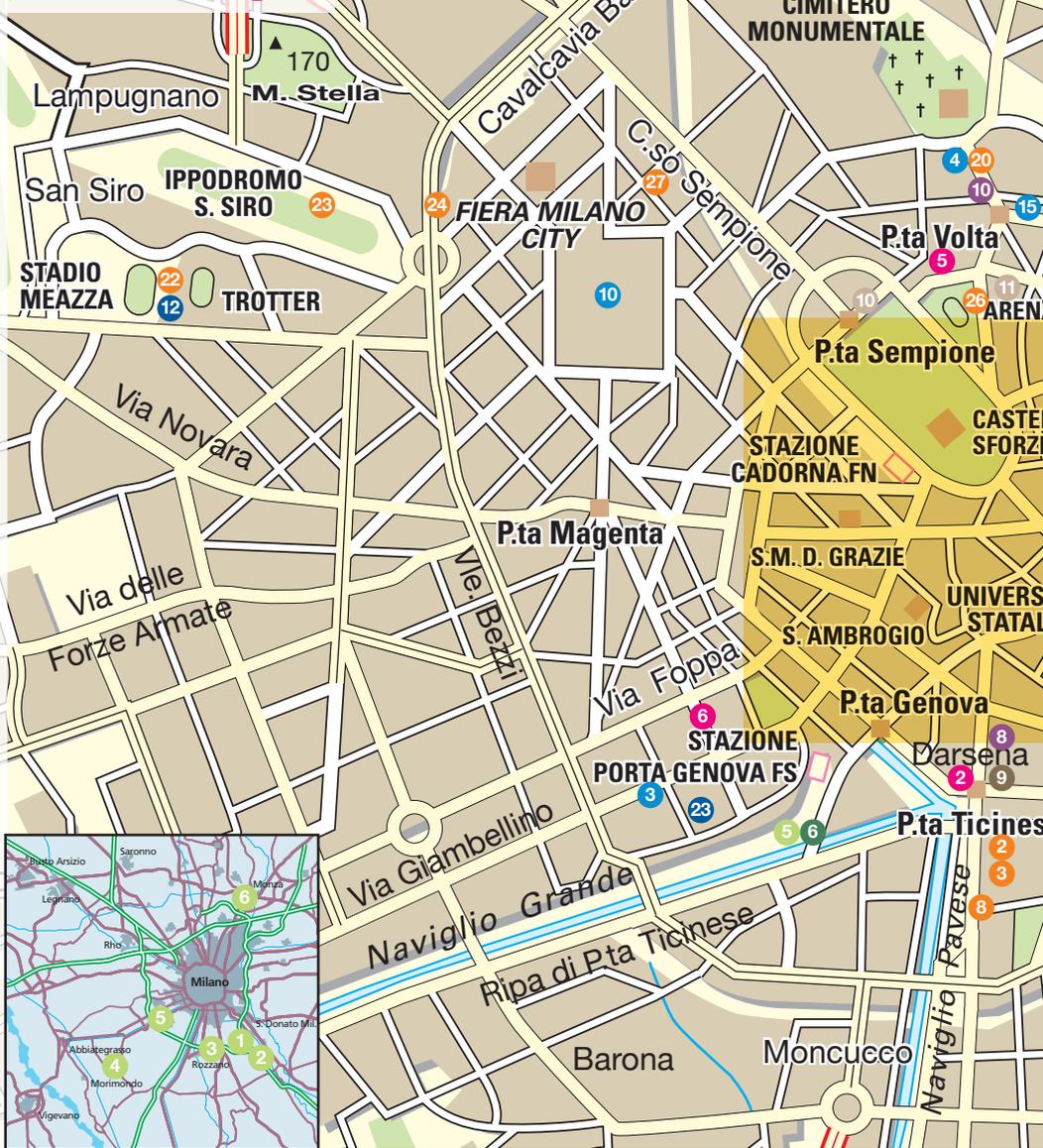
the world by its dynamism, creativity and innovation. This energy reflects the love of life its inhabitants have ever offered to Europe and the world at large.

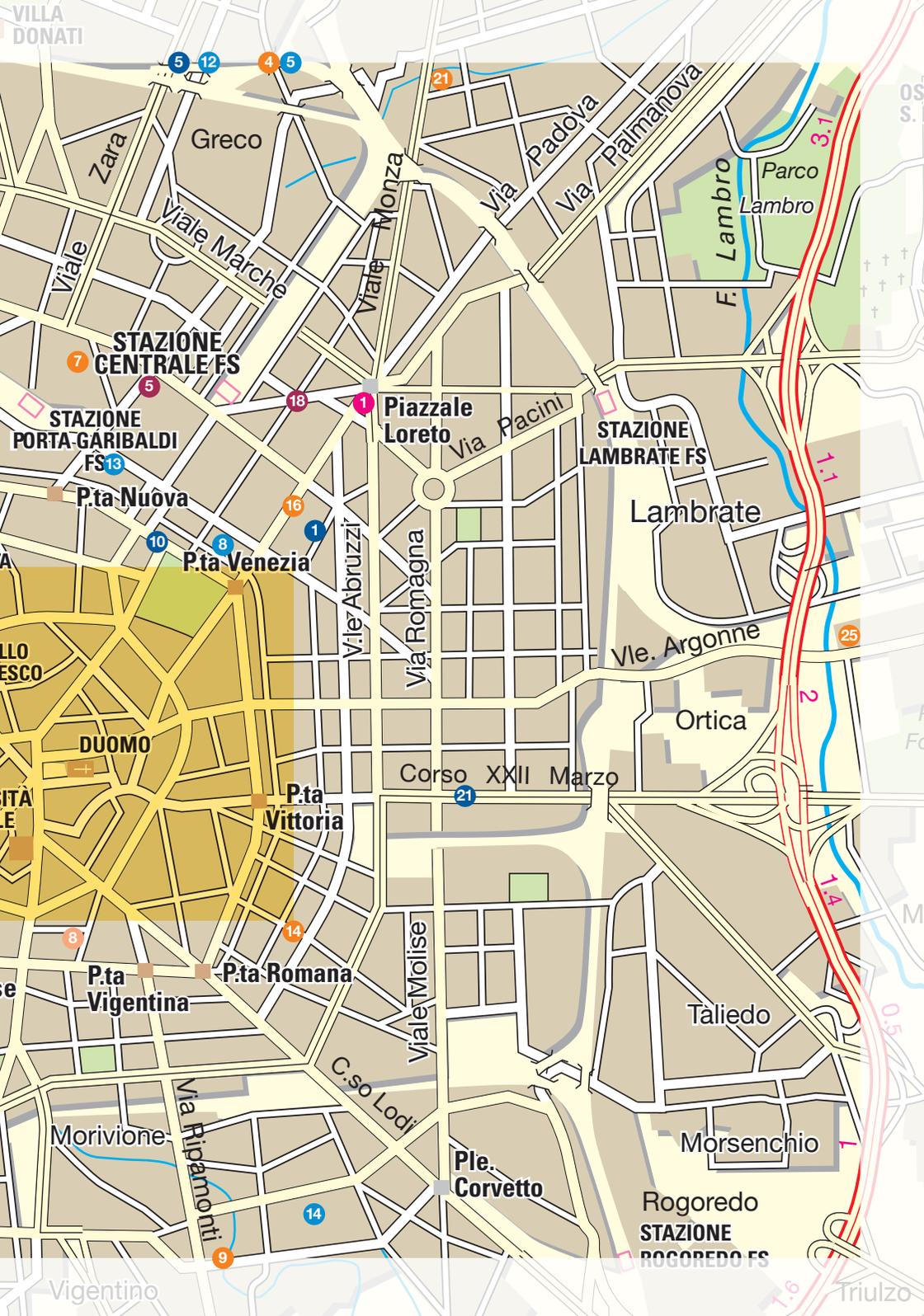
While sauntering through the streets of Milan, visiting its museums and basilicas, doing a spot of shopping, or exploring the ancient waterways of Lombardy, you will find yourselves drawn into the special atmosphere of the city, sharing in its positivity and drive.

After the success of Expo 2015 this guidebook is our answer to an equally important challenge, that of enticing you back to Milan, attracted by that subtle fascination that welcomes and enchants all.

Enjoy your stay in Milan.

# Map of the city





VILLA DONATI

**STAZIONE CENTRALE FS**

**STAZIONE PORTA GARIBALDI FS**

**Piazzale Loreto**

**STAZIONE LAMBRATE FS**

**DUOMO**

**Corso XXII Marzo**

**Lambrate**

**Ortica**

**P.ta Vittoria**

**P.ta Vigentina**

**P.ta Romana**

**Taliedo**

**Ple. Corvetto**

**Morsenchio**

**Rogoredo STAZIONE ROGOREDO FS**

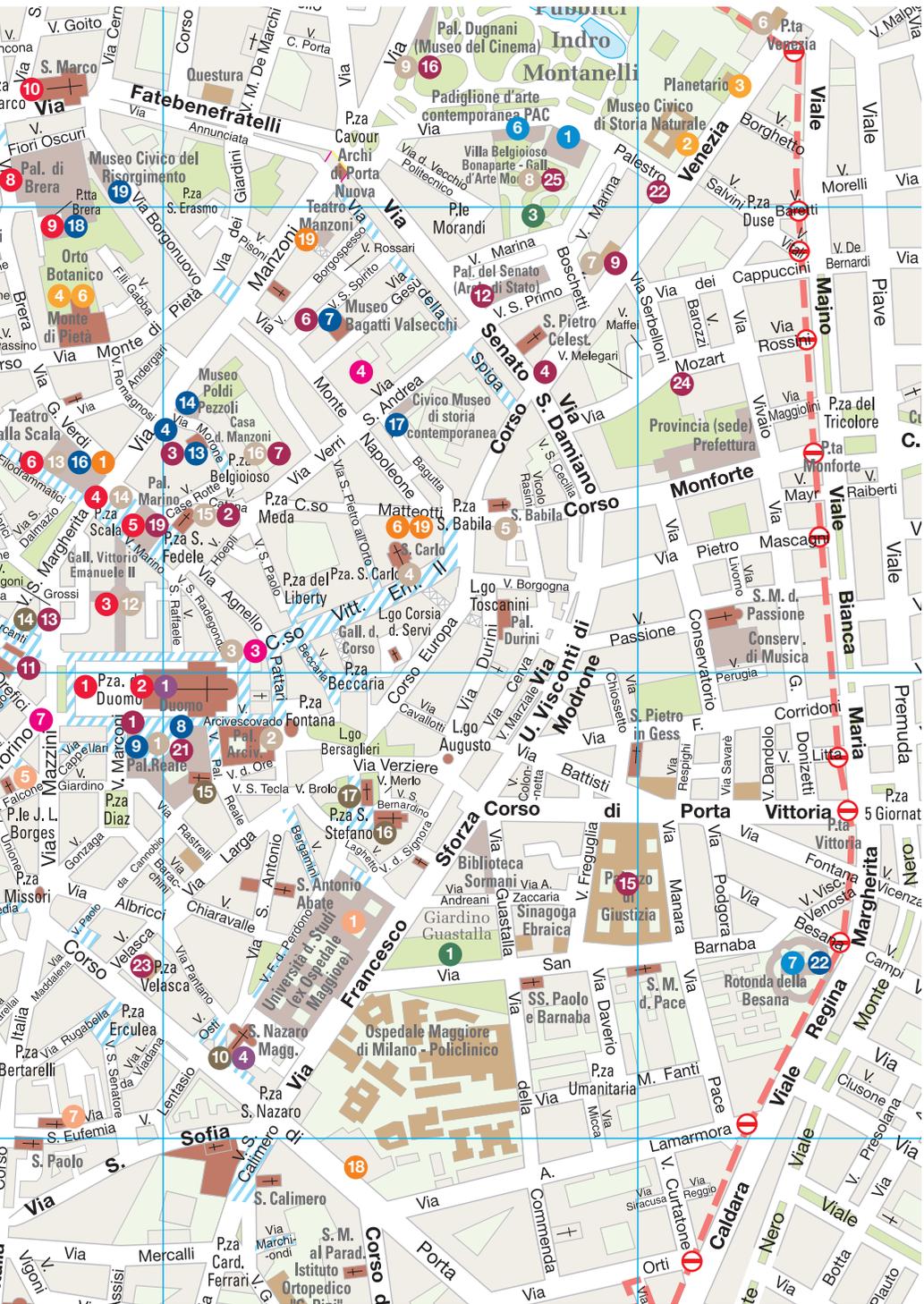
Vigentino

Triulzo

# Center of the city



- legend**
-  Artistic monument
  -  Civil building, sports centre
  -  Artistic civil building
  -  Other buildings
  -  Garden, green area
  -  Pedestrian area
  -  Area with traffic restriction





The **scrofa semilanuta**, or half-woolly sow, in a bas-relief on the Palazzo della Ragione recalling the legendary origins of the city's name. Belloveso, chief of the Celts, founded Milan in the place where a half-woolly sow ("medio lanae" in Latin) had been found just as the oracle had predicted.

The first traces of a settlement in the Milan area date back to the **6th–5th century B.C.**, when the area was inhabited by the Insubrian Gauls. The village's Celtic name, which has come down to us in its Latinised form, **Mediolanum**, seems to have meant "land amidst the rivers" or "the plains". Finally conquered by the Romans in **194 B.C.**, the city became the residence of Emperor Maximian and capital of the **Western Roman Empire in A.D. 286**. After the **A.D. 313 Edict of Constantine** – promulgated in Milan – it became a centre of great importance due to the consolidation of the new Christian religion thanks to the work of **Ambrose**, elected Bishop in **374**. Many of Milan's churches (such as Sant' Ambrogio, Sant' Eustorgio and San Lorenzo) are in fact of paleochristian origin. When the court moved to Ravenna (**A.D. 402**), Milan saw the beginning of a period of decline. From the end of the **5th century** to the **8th century** the city was devastated by Attila and the Huns, by Goths and by Byzantines; following the Lombard conquest of **569**, the new kingdom set up its capital in Pavia. Not until the Carolingian period (**9th–10th century**) did the city become an important centre again, above all thanks to its count-bishops. In the **12th century** the growth of the city of Milan attracted the attention of Emperor Frederick I of Swabia, who attempted to subdue it and, when faced with resistance, destroyed it completely in **1162**. The alliance of the Communes of the Po Valley, which joined forces in the Lombard League (**1167**), defeated Barbarossa (**Legnano, 1176**) and rebuilt the city.

# Milan and its History



The **Biscione** is another symbol of the city of Milan, along with St. George's cross and the Scrofa Semilanuta. The dragon, in the form of a serpent in the act of consuming a young man, was the heraldic charge of the Visconti family.

The age of the free communes ended under the dominion of the **Torriani** family and then the **Visconti (1277–1301, 1311–1447)**. In these 170 years Milan was the capital of a vast duchy, and construction of the **Duomo** began (**1386**). Upon the death of Filippo Maria Visconti in **1447**, the absence of an heir led to the three-year government of the **Aurea Repubblica Ambrosiana**, without placating the conflict between the city's most important families over inheritance of political control. In **1450** the city fell into the hands of a captain of fortune, Francesco Sforza, and it was under his dynasty that Milan became one of the capitals of the Renaissance, thanks to the many artists who worked in the city (including Filarete, Bramante and Leonardo da Vinci); this was the time of construction of the Ospedale Maggiore, Cappella Portinari and the Lazzaretto. In the early **16th century** the area around Milan became the theatre of conflict between the French and Spanish monarchies. The Spanish prevailed, and were to dominate the city for almost two centuries (**1535–1713**). These were hard times, times of great social inequality, of plague (**1576** and **1630**) and the domination of the Borromeo family. The first member of this family, St. Carlo, made Milan a stronghold of the Catholic Counter-Reformation; the second, Federico, opened its first public library, the Ambrosiana, and the picture gallery of the same name. In **1713** control of Milan passed from the Spanish to the Austrians. Under Empress Maria Theresa of Austria (**1740–1780**) and her son Joseph II (**1780–1790**) the city began to thrive again in every way, from the economy to the arts. The Accademia di Brera was founded, and the Teatro alla Scala, the Palazzo and Villa Reale and many neoclassical palaces were built. On **15 May 1796** Napoleon came into the city at the head of the French army. One year later Milan became the

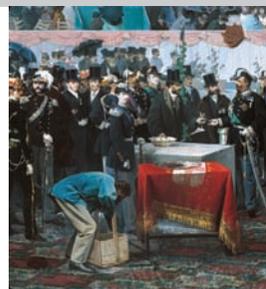
capital of the Cisalpine Republic, and then, in 1805, of the Kingdom of Italy: Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned in the Duomo. With the return of the Austrians (1814) the unification of Italy, known as the Risorgimento, began in Milan. In 1848 the city rose against the Austro-Hungarians, winning the revolt after five days of battle. But not until 1859 did Milan join the Savoy dominions, and in 1861 it became a part of the **Kingdom of Italy**, soon becoming its economic capital. The new wealth soon drastically altered the city's historic centre, where banks and insurance companies set up their headquarters and elegant new districts were built (often with little regard for the city's past history). The city's many industries attracted labourers, and a new working class arose, represented at first by the Partito Operaio or Workers' Party (1882) and then by the Partito Socialista Italiano, the Italian Socialist Party (1892). By the end of the century the political climate was incandescent, and the tension led to the 1898 repression of a popular uprising by the army under general Bava Beccaris,



*«Everything is wonderful in Milan, the abundance of every thing, the number and elegance of its palatial homes, the amicable disposition of the people; the cheerful living...»*  
Decimius Magnus Ausonius, 4th century A.D.

who shot cannon fire into crowds protesting against the increase in the price of bread, killing 80 people and injuring 450. In the years following the First World War, the city of Milan saw more times of great social tension and economic hardship. It was here that Mussolini founded the Fascist Party in 1919: the regime made a great mark on the city, changing its face forever with the (controversial) covering over of the canals (Navigli) and the construction of a number of public works (Palazzo di Giustizia, Palazzo dell'Arte, Fiera campionaria). During the Second World War Milan was heavily bombed by the Allies, and the city was in the front lines of the fight against fascism following 1943, becoming the seat of the Partisans' Northern Italian Command, earning the city a Gold Medal of the Resistance. When the conflict was over, the capital of Lombardy became the engine driving reconstruction of the country and the leader in an economic boom which saw the city grow and transform with the arrival of thousands of immigrants. From 1967 on, workers' and students' protests and then the strategy of tension led to further changes in the city's character. The Banca dell'Agricoltura massacre in Piazza Fontana (12 December 1969) ushered in a time of violent political struggle and terrorist attacks which did not end until the early '80s. The rest is recent history, in which the city of Milan is at the centre of an irreversible process of urban development resulting from almost total deindustrialisation. Large-scale projects such as **City Life**, **Portello**, **Porta Nuova** and **Cascina Merlata** are changing the look of the land. With **Expo Milano 2015** the city underwent further architectural and urban change starting with the huge complex that was built beside the new Milan Trade Fair.

A process of renewal which is not only urban, but social and cultural as well.



Top: an episode of the **Five Days of Milan** depicted in a painting by Baldassarre Verazzi. Between 18 and 22 March 1848 the people of Milan rebelled against the Austro-Hungarian army, setting up barricades. Above: **The laying of the first stone in the Gallery**, by Domenico Induno. It was 7 March 1865 and King Vittorio Emanuele II attended.

- 1 PIAZZA DEL DUOMO
- 2 DUOMO
- 3 GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II
- 4 PIAZZA DELLA SCALA
- 5 PALAZZO MARINO
- 6 TEATRO ALLA SCALA
- 7 SANTA MARIA DEL CARMINE
- 8 PALAZZO DI BRERA
- 9 PINACOTECA DI BRERA
- 10 SAN MARCO



# Exploring the

The rooftop terraces of the **Duomo** offer splendid views over the city, but visitors must climb 919 steps to get to them! On the Gran Guglia, the cathedral's highest spire, rises the **Madonnina**, symbol of Milan ever since the tricolour flag appeared on the spire during the Five Days in 1848, hung there by the patriot Torelli when the Austrian snipers had fled from the roof of the cathedral.

The first place anyone who lives in Milan will take a first-time visitor is of course **Piazza del Duomo**, the geographical and historical centre of Milan. The existing piazza is the result of a series of changes and expansions over the centuries; at one time it was very small, surrounded by medieval houses and palaces. The cathedral must have been a very impressive sight as one emerged from a narrow alleyway. Between 1865 and 1873 a large churchyard was created, surrounded by palaces with arcades, changing the Duomo's emotional impact. The piazza contains the Duomo, the **Palazzo Reale** [> p. 16/24], the **Arengario** [> p. 22/30], the arcades and the Galleria; in the centre is the equestrian monument to King Vittorio Emanuele. The **Duomo** [> p. 18], symbol of the city, is of uncertain date. Its construction may have begun in 1386, as we may read on a small stone at the beginning of the first bay on the right in the church: "El principio dil domo di Milano fu nel'anno 1386". We can say for sure that work on the facade began in the first half of the 16th century. The "Fabbrica del Duomo" was an endless task: the last door was not completed until 1965! The marble mass is of exceptional size, and is one of Europe's biggest Gothic cathedrals, measuring 158 m long, 93 m wide and 108.5 m high at its highest spire. To the left of the cathedral is the 19th century **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** [> p. 17] linking Piazza del Duomo with **Piazza della Scala**, where the two main buildings face one another: **Palazzo Marino** [> p. 24] on one side and **Teatro alla Scala** on the other [> p. 17], the world's best-known opera theatre. The left arcade covers the entrance to the **Museo Teatrale alla Scala** [> p. 28].

We continue our tour on the street running along the side of the theatre, via

Verdi, to via Brera. Here we turn to the left into via del Carmine to a small square containing the church of **Santa Maria del Carmine**, the parish church for English-speaking immigrants, where mass is celebrated every week in English and in Tagalog, the most important language of the Philippines. It has a complicated and curious history: originally built in the 15th century, it has been repeatedly rebuilt and restored, and the Spanish ordered its bell tower lowered in 1664. We continue along via Brera to the impressive 17th-century **Palazzo di Brera**, home to the Pinacoteca, the Accademia di Belle Arti and the Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense. This is the heart of the Brera district, with its artists, poets and crowded bars. The Baroque Palazzo di Brera has a solemn facade, a noteworthy portal - framed by the columns supporting the balcony - a beautiful courtyard and a majestic grand staircase (Scalone d'Onore) leading to the famous **Pinacoteca** [**> p. 28**]. At the corner of via Fatebenefratelli and via Pontaccio, we turn right into via San Marco, home of the church and convent where Mozart stayed. This is where the "Tombon" of San Marco opened up, a little lake marking the end point of the **Naviglio** or canal [**> p. 37**], a port where goods were unloaded off barges. The church of **San Marco** dates back to the 13th century and still has its original portal, bell tower and a number of statues. The interior has been redone in Baroque style.



**\* Blocks of marble for the construction of the Duomo were brought from Lago Maggiore via the Ticino River, the Naviglio Grande and the "fossa interna dei navigli", the city's inner circle of canals, up to the little lake of Santo Stefano, an artificial pool between the hospital and the church of Santo Stefano.**

# City Centre

*«...(the Duomo seems) a delusion of frostwork that might vanish with a breath!...»*  
Mark Twain



Left: **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II**, covered passageway in a Latin cross shape, featuring mosaics and a wrought iron and glass roof.

Lower left: **Teatro alla Scala**, the world's best-known opera theatre.  
Lower right: inside the church of **San Marco**. It was here that the "Messa da Requiem" for Alessandro Manzoni was celebrated under the direction of Giuseppe Verdi in 1874. The church's extraordinary acoustics make it a favourite concert venue for the most important institutes of music in Milan.



- 1 CIVICO MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO
- 2 SAN MAURIZIO
- 3 RUINS OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE
- 4 RUINS OF THE ROMAN THEATRE AND FORUM
- 5 SAN SEPOLCRO
- 6 ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- 7 SAN LORENZO MAGGIORE
- 8 PARCO DELLE BASILICHE
- 9 SANT'EUSTORGIO
- 10 SAN NAZARO MAGGIORE



# 2 Ancient Roman and

- 11 SAN SIMPLICIANO
- 12 SANT'AMBROGIO
- 13 PIAZZA DEI MERCANTI
- 14 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE
- 15 CAMPANILE DI SAN GOTTARDO IN CORTE
- 16 SANTO STEFANO MAGGIORE
- 17 SAN BERNARDINO ALLE OSSA

16 Roman columns dating back to the Imperial age stand before the facade of **San Lorenzo Maggiore**. In the middle is a bronze copy of the statue of Emperor Constantine recalling the Edict of Milan.

Few traces remain of the Milan that was the capital city of the Western Roman Empire, as its monuments have been demolished over the ages to reuse the building materials. To get an idea of what the city was like in those days, start at the **Civico Museo Archeologico** [[> p. 26](#)], an archaeological museum housed in the extraordinary setting of an 8th century monastery, **Monastero Maggiore di San Maurizio**, of which only the church of **San Maurizio** [[> p. 19](#)] remains along with the entrance cloister. The park inside the museum contains the only surviving tower from the ancient Roman walls, called **Torre di Ansperto**. This was the location of a 1st century A.D. home and a big Roman **circus**, of which one of the two square towers still stands, transformed into a bell tower for the church. The ruins of a building that was part of the imposing **Imperial Palace**, the **Palazzo imperiale** built towards the end of the 3rd century, are visible in nearby **via Brisa**, where we may also see the remains of ancient Roman **baths**. The late 1st century B.C. **Theatre** is buried underneath the **Palazzo della Borsa** [[> p. 24](#)], home to the city's stock exchange, in **Piazza degli Affari** (open to visitors on request only). Of course the city of **Mediolanum** also had a **Forum** (1st century A.D.), underneath the **Biblioteca Ambrosiana** [[> p. 28](#)]; its floor is now visible in the lower church of **San Sepolcro** [[> p. 19](#)]. The Roman city had places for entertainment and places of worship outside the city gates; just outside **Porta Ticinese** was an **Amphitheatre** built in the 2nd to 3rd century – now part of the **Parco Archeologico**, archaeological site in **via De Amicis 17**, joined to “**Alda Levi**” Antiquarium – and the basilica of **San Lorenzo Maggiore** [[> p. 18](#)]. The church, built in the 4th and 5th centuries, has maintained its original form, and

the adjacent chapel preserves Roman and paleochristian artefacts. We now cross the **Parco delle Basiliche** [> p. 37] to **Sant'Eustorgio** [> p. 20], a basilica with a complex layout (dating back to the 7th to 12th centuries) incorporating the structure of a paleochristian chapel and tombs. Bishop Ambrose had three other basilicas built in addition to San Lorenzo Maggiore: **San Nazaro Maggiore** [> p. 19], in corso di Porta Romana, **San Simpliciano** [> p. 20], behind via Solferino, and the "basilica Martyrum" now known as **Sant'Ambrogio** [> p. 20], a splendid example of the Lombard Romanesque style. All three offer specimens of late Roman and paleochristian sculpture.

The medieval city centre was built around the Duomo. **Piazza dei Mercanti**, home to **Palazzo della Ragione** [> p. 23] and **Palazzo dei Giureconsulti** [> p. 23], was the centre of civic life in the middle ages, and it was under its arcades that traders, money changers and notaries met to discuss business. Behind the cathedral, incorporated in the rear part of the Palazzo Reale, is a red brick bell tower: it and the apse are all that remains of the 14th century palatine church of **San Gottardo in Corte**. Across via Larga, in little Piazza Santo Stefano, are two more places of worship: the basilica of **Santo Stefano Maggiore** – Romanesque but altered in the 16th and 19th centuries – and the medieval church of **San Bernardino alle Ossa**, known for its Ossuary Chapel, with its unusual decorations made up of human bones.



✿ Behind the basilica of San Lorenzo is Piazza Vetra, where alleged witches and malefactors were executed. A statue of St. Lazarus stands on the exact spot where the condemned breathed their last.

# Medieval Milan

«...*(Milan) shines adorned by the various aspects of a perspicuous culture...*»  
Anonymous Lombard, 8th century



Top left: the ruins of the **Roman amphitheatre**, an imposing arena measuring about 160 x 125 m.

Top right: the **diatreta trivulzia** is a 4th century Roman cage cup, a glass vessel in a cage made by an unknown technology, now in the **Civico Museo Archeologico**. Below: **Piazza dei Mercanti** with the well in the middle (dating back to the 16th century) which was originally on the other side, where the so-called "stone of the bankrupt" was located. This is where debtors sat before giving up all their property and being imprisoned in nearby "Malastalla" jail.



- 1 "CA' GRANDA"
- 2 CASTELLO SFORZESCO
- 3 SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE
- 4 SAN VITTORE AL CORPO
- 5 SANTA MARIA PRESSO SAN SATIRO
- 6 SANT'ALESSANDRO
- 7 SANT'EUFEMIA
- 8 SANTA MARIA PRESSO SAN CELSO



# 3 The Renaissance and

The **Torre del Filarete** is the tower characterising **Castello Sforzesco**, "recreated" on the basis of two sketches found by chance in the abbey of Chiaravalle and a farmhouse in Pozzobonelli. The **round fountain** ornamenting the piazza replaces the earlier "Torta di Spùs" ("Wedding Cake") which was removed in the '60s to permit construction of the city's first subway line.

On 12 April 1456 Duke Francesco Sforza laid the first stone of the **"Ca' Granda"** and started work on the construction of what was to be Europe's most advanced hospital of its day. Begun by Antonio Averulino, known as Filarete, it was the Ospedale Maggiore, the biggest hospital in Milan, until 1939: in 1943 it was severely damaged by bombs and then radically rebuilt. It is now home to the Università degli Studi, with its very long facade on via Festa del Perdono. At that time Filarete also worked on one of the best-known symbols of medieval and Renaissance Milan: **Castello Sforzesco**, transforming it from a fortress to a stately palace for the Duke. The work began in 1368 under Galeazzo II Visconti and the lords of Milan lived there until the 16th century, when it became a military citadel again. It risked demolition, but was restored and transformed starting in 1893 by Luca Beltrami, an architect interested in the study of antiquity. It is now an important cultural centre and home to the **Musei del Castello** [> p. 26]. Not far away is **Santa Maria delle Grazie** [> p. 20/26], a jewel of the Renaissance and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In this fascinating part of Milan we may find numerous memories of Leonardo da Vinci, not only in the former Dominican monastery next to the church where he painted his "Last Supper" but also in the garden behind Palazzo delle Stelline (across from the church), known as "Orti di Leonardo", with the vineyard which Ludovico il Moro, Duke of Milan, had given Leonardo. The great Tuscan painter spent more than 20 years in Milan, where he painted the two versions of the "Virgin of the Rocks" and "Musician" (in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana) and invented hydraulic machinery and war machines. Near the church (at via San Vittore 25), set back in a little piazza, is another of Italy's most beautiful late Renaissance churches: the

basilica of **San Vittore al Corpo**. Rebuilt between 1560 and 1602 by the Olivetans who lived in the nearby monastery (now home to the city's science museum, Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia), the church has three naves decorated with white and gold plasterwork and 17th century canvases.

Another suggested itinerary starts near the Duomo, in via Torino, home to the church of **Santa Maria presso San Satiro**, offering valuable testimony of Renaissance Milan. The most striking thing about the church's tiny interior is the famous fake presbytery by Bramante, a painted virtual space creating the illusion of a deep apse. Continuing along the street, turn left into via Lupetta and walk to the piazza containing the church of **Sant'Alessandro**, built by the Barnabite Fathers in the 17th century. We are now in the Baroque age, and the facade and elegant bell towers suggest the atmosphere of the interior with its abundance of canvases. In nearby Corso Italia, the piazza of the same name is dominated by the church of **Sant'Eufemia**, a national monument preserving noteworthy 16th century paintings of the school of Leonardo. Continuing along the street, we come to the sanctuary of **Santa Maria presso San Celso**, a beautiful example of Lombard Renaissance architecture: the 16th century courtyard surrounded by arcades in front of the church is a true masterpiece. It is a centuries-old tradition that Milanese brides take a bouquet to the icon of the Madonna exhibited in this church right after their weddings.

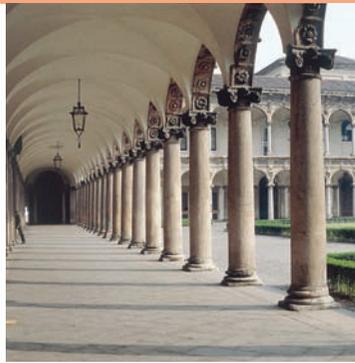


✿ Its perfect acoustics made the church of Sant'Eufemia the perfect location for recording Maria Callas singing opera in the '50s: "I puritani", "Cavalleria rusticana" and "La sonnambula".

# the Baroque

«Today, Milan is the most opulent and bounteous city of Italy.»

Matteo Bandello



Left: the false presbytery designed by Bramante in the church of **Santa Maria presso San Satiro**. On the main altar is a votive fresco of the *Madonna col Bambina*, which is said to have bled when struck by a gambler's dagger in the Middle Ages. Above: the arcade on the great inner courtyard of **Ca' Granda**. Below: a section of the **Spanish walls** around the inner ring road. Only a portion of the original 10 km of walls is visible today.

- 1 PALAZZO REALE
- 2 PALAZZO ARCVESCOVILE
- 3 CORSO VITTORIO EMANUELE II
- 4 SAN CARLO AL CORSO
- 5 SAN BABILA
- 6 PALAZZO SERBELLONI
- 7 PALAZZI CASTIGLIONI E BOVARA
- 8 VILLA BELGIOJOSO BONAPARTE O REALE
- 9 PALAZZO DUGNANI
- 10 ARCO DELLA PACE



# 4 The Neoclassical Age

- 11 ARENA CIVICA "GIANNI BRERA"
- 12 GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II
- 13 TEATRO ALLA SCALA
- 14 SAN FEDELE
- 15 CASA DEGLI OMENONI
- 16 PALAZZO BELGIOIOSO

When the court moved to Castello Sforzesco, **Palazzo Reale** became the seat of the Spanish government and then the Austrian governor, Archduke Ferdinand I, who thoroughly renovated it.

The 18th century was a time of intense construction in Milan, and the responsibility for the look of the new city lies above all with Giuseppe Piermarini, court architect of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, who designed the Teatro alla Scala and renovated the **Palazzo Reale** [> p. 10/24] and, in 1770, the nearby **Palazzo Arcivescovile** in neoclassical style. The **Porta Venezia** area was another focus of the architect's attention, as it was the gateway to the city for anyone arriving from Austria, which is why he constructed so many noble palaces there. An itinerary for discovery of this part of the city might start at the northeast corner of Piazza del Duomo, in **Corso Vittorio Emanuele II**. On the right is a very tall archway to the Galleria del Corso, and under the arcades on the opposite side we may observe, in a niche, the stone statue of a noble Roman in a toga, whose head has been replaced with that of a 10th century bishop. Known as "Omm de Preja" or "scior Carèra", the statue was used as a notice-board in the early 19th century for affixing comments, messages and satirical notes. Where the street widens out near its end is the neoclassical church of **San Carlo al Corso** with its facade recalling a classical temple. Corso Vittorio Emanuele opens up into the piazza containing the old church of **San Babila**, one of the most important Romanesque churches in Milan (11th century), which was however reconstructed in neo-Romanesque style in the mid-19th century. Turning into Corso Venezia, on the corner with via San Damiano one is struck by the imposing **Palazzo Serbelloni** (1793): once the meeting place of the Milanese Illuminists and later home to Napoleon, Metternich, Vittorio Emanuele II and Napoleon III. Just beyond it are **Palazzo Castiglioni** [> p. 23] and **Palazzo Bovara**, in severe neoclassical style, famous for having hosted Stendhal in 1800. On the opposite side of Corso Venezia stands **Palazzo Saporiti**, built in 1812. In nearby via Palestro we may admire

one of the most beautiful creations of neoclassical Milan: **Villa Belgiojoso Bonaparte**, known as **Villa Reale** [> p. 24/31], with its beautiful **garden** [> p. 36]. In front of it is a park, **Giardini Pubblici Indro Montanelli** [> p. 36] designed by Piermarini in the Italian style. Right by the park is 18th-century **Palazzo Dugnani** [> p. 24/36]. In the early 19th century two new constructions were built in Milan: the **Arco della Pace** (in vast Piazza Sempione) and the **Arena Civica** [> p. 43], a look back at the world of antiquity. Going back to Piazza del Duomo, we may take a second itinerary starting with **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** (built in the second half of the 19th century in honour of the King of Italy), a covered street which represented Italy's first use of glass and iron as structural materials and joined the Duomo to La Scala. Piermarini's **Teatro alla Scala** was inaugurated in 1778 with a melodrama by Antonio Salieri and became famous as a "temple of opera" under Arturo Toscanini (1898–1908). Behind the piazza is the church of **San Fedele**, completed in 1835. Not far away is via Omenoni with the beautiful **Casa degli Omenoni** (1562–1565) [> p. 22], leading to the little piazza containing **Palazzo Belgiojoso** [> p. 22], commissioned of Piermarini in 1772. Dating back to the late Nineteenth Century the **Cimitero Monumentale**, "Monumental Cemetery" (designed in 1863), is a real "open air museum" teeming with artistic masterpieces (visits are possible). The Memorial Chapel houses the remains of many famous people (such as Alessandro Manzoni, Salvatore Quasimodo etc..)



✱ The Galleria, with its 47 metre high dome, has been imitated repeatedly in Italy and abroad, and provided the model for construction of countless shopping centres in Canada and the United States.

## and the 19th-Century



Left: the church of **San Carlo al Corso** is a splendid neoclassical complex. Preceded by a Corinthian arcade, under a huge dome, the church is a variation on the Pantheon.

Left, above: the inner courtyard of **Palazzo Clerici**, an example of 18th century patrician architecture in Milan.

Left, below: **Arena Civica "Gianni Brera"** has hosted naval battles, circuses, and a skating rink. Buffalo Bill and his "circus" of caravans and real Indians performed a "Wild West Show" here in 1906.

- 1 DUOMO
- 2 SAN LORENZO  
MAGGIORE
- 3 SAN MAURIZIO  
AL MONASTERO  
MAGGIORE
- 4 SAN NAZARO  
MAGGIORE
- 5 SAN SEPOLCRO
- 6 SAN SIMPLICIANO
- 7 SANT'AMBROGIO
- 8 SANT'EUSTORGIO
- 9 SANTA MARIA  
DELLE GRAZIE
- 10 SANTA MARIA  
INCORONATA



# 5 The Great Churches

Filarete, Leonardo Da Vinci, Bramante, Francesco di Giorgio Martini, Bernini, Bergognone, Luini, Gaudenzio Ferrari... these are only a few of the best-known artists who have made Milan and its churches so great.

**Duomo** [> p. 10]

**Piazza del Duomo.** The symbol of the Lombard capital; dedicated to Santa Maria Nascente (St. Mary Nascent). Construction started under Gian Galeazzo Visconti, most likely 1386, and its origins are legendary: the story is that the devil appeared to the lord of Milan one night, offering to save his life if he would build a huge church in which Satan's image appears repeatedly. And the 96 Satanic gargoyles confirm the story... Construction continued until the 19th century, and in fact the people of Milan still speak of tasks that "take as long as

the construction of the Duomo". The impressive interior reveals the cathedral's vertical Gothic spirit. It contains numerous works of art: the tomb of Gian Giacomo Medici by Leone Leoni (1563); a wooden choir (1572-1620); a Holy Nail from the Cross of Jesus preserved in a tabernacle inside a crucifix above the choir; a number of 15th and 16th century stained glass windows; the Candelabro Trivulzio, a bronze work largely of Gothic manufacture, of the German school; a Sundial; the Scurolo of San Carlo by Richini (1606) with an urn containing the body of Carlo Borromeo.

**San Lorenzo Maggiore** [> p. 12]  
**Corso di Porta Ticinese 39.** Preceded by an Imperial Roman colonnade, the basilica is a truly striking sight. Its essential features are those of a late 17th century church, but as it was

"...From far away it looks as if it has been cut out of a sheet of white paper, but as we approach we realise that the lace cut-outs are undeniably made of white marble...". So said Heinrich Heine in 1826, and the marvel we experience before the **Duomo** is still just the same today.

built incorporating a paleochristian building, it is considered the most important surviving testimony of Roman and paleochristian Milan. In its central interior, it is worth visiting the chapel of Sant'Aquilino with its 4th century mosaics.

**San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore** [**> p. 12**]

**Corso Magenta 15.** The church is a 16th century jewel, completely covered with frescoes on the inside, mostly by Bernardino Luini.

**San Nazaro Maggiore**

**Piazza San Nazaro in Brolo 5.** One of the four basilicas founded by Bishop Ambrose (382-386 A.D.), and one of the oldest in the city; the majority of the existing structure is original. Before it is

the Trivulzio chapel (1512-1520 A.D.), mausoleum of the commander Gian Giacomo Trivulzio, buried here with his two wives. On the stone is a Latin text which some historians have translated into Milanese: "L'è staa mai cont i man in man" (he never did sit idle).

**San Sepolcro** [**> p. 12**]

**Piazza San Sepolcro.** Built in 1030 in the Forum of Roman Milan, it was rebuilt by the founder's great-grandson when he got back from the first crusade (1096-1099) in imitation of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The sarcophagus in the centre of the nave is said to contain soil from the Holy City brought back by the Crusaders and a lock of Mary Magdalene's hair.



✳ According to an ancient tradition, the Duomo is where risotto alla milanese was "born", invented by a boy who worked for the stained glass artist Valerio di Fiandra, nicknamed "zafferano" for his habit of adding spices to his colours. One day he put some saffron in the rice as well, and the result was a great success!

# of Milan

*«Amidst your stones and your mists/I holiday. I rest in Piazza / del Duomo. Instead of stars/it lights up with words every night...» Umberto Saba, Milano*



Left: the great Renaissance tribune on the church of **Santa Maria delle Grazie** was built by Ludovico il Moro as a family tomb.

Left, above: the interior of the church of **San Maurizio**, with frescoes by prominent 16 century Lombard artists.

Bottom, left: the church of **San Sepolcro**, the Baroque style interior was completed under the guidance of Cardinal Federico Borromeo; the façade however, underwent alterations in the late 1800s and was transformed into Lombard Romanesque style.

# 5

## San Smpliciano

### Piazza San Smpliciano 7.

The last of the four basilicas St. Ambrose had built on the outskirts of the city. Of Romanesque construction, founded in the 4th century and rebuilt in the 19th century, it contains a fresco by Bergognone, "Coronation of the Virgin" (1515). Organ concerts are regularly held here.

### Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio [> p. 13]

#### Piazza Sant'Ambrogio 15.

Bishop Ambrose founded the basilica in 379 as a "basilica Martyrum" on the tombs of Saints Gervasius and Protasius and was himself buried here in 397. Its current Romanesque appearance is the result of thorough changes and reconstructions between the 9th and

that starts at the Duomo at Epiphany. The bell tower also recalls the Three Wise Men, for in place of the cross it has an 8-tipped star like the one that guided them to Bethlehem at its tip. Since 2011, the facade and the chapels have been permanently lit up at night. But the true jewel of the basilica is the Portinari Chapel, the highlight of Renaissance architecture in Milan, entirely covered with frescoes, with the upper parts by Vincenzo Foppa (1466-1468).

### Santa Maria delle Grazie [> p. 14/26]

#### Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie 2.

A splendid example of Renaissance architecture, best known for Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, the **Cenacolo di Leonardo** [> p. 14/26], with an

## The Great Churches of Milan

\* Next to the basilica of Sant'Ambrogio is a Roman column. According to the legend, the two holes in it were made by the devil's horns when he was "nailed" here by St. Ambrose.

\* In a compartment in the Portinari chapel is an urn containing the skull of St. Peter the Martyr, who traditionally protects against headache. The Inquisition took place in the nearby convent.

12th centuries as well as modern restoration work.

Before the basilica is the solemn foyer of Ansperto, concealing the facade from passersby on the street. Inside the church are a 10th century ciborium above the gold altar, a masterpiece of the Carolingian goldsmiths' art, and the crypt. The apse is decorated with a big 6th to 8th century mosaic.

### Sant'Eustorgio [> p. 13]

**Piazza Sant'Eustorgio.** Behind the facade, redone in Romanesque style in 1862-1865, stands another very important and ancient place of worship. The basilica is a stratified construction including parts from the 7th, 11th and 12th centuries. Linked with the worship and relics of the Three Wise Men, which tradition would have brought to the city by St. Eustorgius, the church is the end point of the parade of the Three Wise Men

imposing Renaissance tribune added in 1492.

In the oldest part of the church (in the Gothic style) are frescoes by Gaudenzio Ferrari and Marco d'Oggiono, as well as a monument to Ludovico il Moro. The 15th century "Madonna delle Grazie" in the left chapel of the tribune was much venerated during the plagues of the 16th and 17th century. In the chapel on the right was Titian's "Crowning with thorns", which the French took to Paris in the late 18th century, now in the Louvre. A door on the left leads to a little cloister attributed to Bramante.

### Santa Maria Incononata

**Corso Giuseppe Garibaldi 116.** It has a bipartite facade which is reflected in the interior with its twin naves. The two buildings were probably originally separate and only joined together later on (1484).



Left: the dome of the **Portinari Chapel** in the basilica of **Sant'Eustorgio**. The frescoes concealed under seven layers of plaster were restored to their original splendour by restoration work between 1952 and 1965. Lower left: the interior of the basilica of **San Simpliciano** contains the relics of three martyrs: Sisinius, Martirius and Alessandro. Lower right: the Ansperto foyer, a majestic courtyard flanked by double arcades leading to the basilica of **Sant'Ambrogio**.



- 1 ARENGARIO
- 2 CASA DEGLI OMENONI
- 3 CASA DI MANZONI
- 4 CASA FONTANA SILVESTRI
- 5 GRATTACIELO PIRELLI
- 6 PALAZZO BAGATTI VALSECCHI
- 7 PALAZZO BELGIOIOSO
- 8 PALAZZO BORROMEO
- 9 PALAZZO CASTIGLIONI
- 10 PALAZZO CLERICI
- 11 PALAZZO DEI GIURECONSULTI
- 12 PALAZZO DEL SENATO
- 13 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE



# 6

## The Buildings

- 14 PALAZZO DELLE STELLINE
- 15 PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA
- 16 PALAZZO DUGNANI
- 17 PALAZZO LITTA
- 18 PALAZZO LOMBARDIA
- 19 PALAZZO MARINO
- 20 PALAZZO MEZZANOTTE
- 21 PALAZZO REALE
- 22 PALAZZO SAPORITI
- 23 TORRE VELASCA
- 24 VILLA NECCHI CAMPIGLIO
- 25 VILLA REALE

The twin **Arengario** buildings in Piazza del Duomo.

Milan's buildings are part of the city's cultural heritage, telling the city's long history in different styles for different ages.

**Arengario** [> p. 10/30]

**Piazza Duomo.** The twin pavilions of the Arengario were designed in the thirties to give the piazza a more monumental appearance. They now house the Museo del Novecento.

**Casa degli Omenoni** [> p. 17]

**Via Omenoni 3.** Eight statues of men ("omenoni") decorate the facade of the 16th century residence of Charles V's sculptor, Leone Leoni.

**Casa di Alessandro Manzoni**

**Via Morone 1.** The home where the writer lived with his family between 1814 and 1873, now containing the Museo Manzoniano.

**Casa Fontana Silvestri**

**Corso Venezia 10.** A Renaissance

palace (1475), one of Milan's oldest homes, with a beautiful courtyard and 14th century ruins.

**Grattacielo Pirelli** [> p. 30]

**Piazza Duca d'Aosta.** Home to the offices of the Region of Lombardy since 1978. 127 metres high, it was designed by Gio Ponti and associates in collaboration with Pier Luigi Nervi. On 18 April 2002 a small plane crashed into the skyscraper; a memorial on the 26th floor commemorates the victims of the accident.

**Palazzo Bagatti Valsecchi**

**Via Santo Spirito 10/via Gesù 5.** A 19th century home built to imitate a 16th century palace, now containing the Museo Bagatti Valsecchi.

**Palazzo Belgioioso** [> p. 17]

**Piazza Belgioioso 1.** A neoclassical work built in 1772-81 by Piermarini, inspired by Luigi Vanvitelli's Reggia di Caserta. Considered one of the city's architectural treasures.



# of Milan

*«Man has never looked so small  
as in the Galleria»*

Franz Kafka

## Palazzo Borromeo

**Piazza Borromeo 10.** An example of a home in the Gothic style, with late Gothic frescoes in one of the rooms inside (private, but open to visitors on appointment only).

## Palazzo Castiglioni

 [**> p. 16**]

**Corso Venezia 47.** By Giuseppe Sommaruga (1900-1904), is the emblem of Italian Art Nouveau.

## Palazzo Clerici

**Via Clerici 5.** Home to ISPI, the Institute for International Political Studies, this 18th century building has a Tapestry Gallery with a vaulted ceiling featuring frescoes by Tiepolo (1741); on the walls are four 17th century tapestries. Guided tours may be booked at [www.ispionline.it](http://www.ispionline.it)

## Palazzo dei Giureconsulti

 [**> p. 13**]

**Piazza Mercanti.** All that remains of the original building constructed in 1561 is the name, for the building has been repeatedly renovated and now houses the city's Chamber of Commerce.

## Palazzo del Senato

**Via Senato 10.** Built in the 17th century, it was home to the Senate under Napoleon's rule and now contains the National Archives. Across from the building is a bronze sculpture by Joan Miró.

## Palazzo della Ragione

 [**> p. 13**]

**Piazza Mercanti.** Also known as Broletto Nuovo, a true symbol of the Middle Ages in Lombardy. Built in 1233, it contained the offices of the City until 1789. It has a single majestic hall: the Sala della Ragione. Across from it is the **Loggia degli Osii**, built in 1316, the loggia from which the magistrates proclaimed their edicts and sentences.

## Palazzo delle Stelline

**Corso Magenta 61.** A 16th century palace which is now a landmark for the city's cultural life and congresses. It was originally the "Ospedale dei mendicanti", a charitable institution which became the city's principal orphanage for girls. The

Clockwise: the grand staircase of **Palazzo Castiglioni**; the Valtellina style bedroom in **Museo Bagatti-Valsecchi**; the rococo facade of **Palazzo Litta**; the Alessi room in **Palazzo Marino** and the current reception hall.

**\*** Alessi hall in Palazzo Marino is where Manzoni's remains lay in state in 1873.



term “stella”, star, is still used in Milan to refer to little girls. The building now contains Museo Martinit e Stelline, documenting the orphanage.

#### **Palazzo di Giustizia**

**Corso di Porta Vittoria 20.** Piacentini and Rapisardi built this building in 1932–1940 in response to the fascist regime’s demand for monumental constructions: it contains 1,200 rooms and 65 courtrooms arranged on four levels around a monumental courtyard.

#### **Palazzo Dugnani** [> p. 17/36]

**Via Manin 2.** An 18th century palace containing a ballroom decorated with frescoes by Tiepolo (open to visitors on appointment only). One of the most popular buildings for parties and gatherings of nobles between 1758 and 1846.

**Piazza degli Affari.** Historic home to the Stock Exchange, built in 1931 by Paolo Mezzanotte on the site of an ancient Roman theatre dating back to the age of Augustine.

#### **Palazzo Reale** [> p. 10/16]

**Piazza del Duomo 12.** A 14th century duke’s palace converted to its current form by Piermarini (1778). One of Milan’s most important exhibition centres; in 1951 Pablo Picasso chose it as the site for his “Guernica”, as an emblem of the destruction of war, as the building had been heavily bombed in 1943 and lost all the decorations in its halls.

#### **Torre Velasca** [> p. 30]

**Piazza Velasca 5.** A 26 floor skyscraper built in 1956–1957 by studio BBPR (Banfi, Belgiojoso, Peressutti, Rogers). Its

# 6

## The Buildings of Milan

#### **Palazzo Litta**

**Corso Magenta 24.** Built in 1648 by Francesco Maria Richini, with a beautiful rococo facade and a dramatic arched courtyard.

#### **Palazzo Lombardia**

**Via Restelli, via Melchiorre Gioia.** This impressive building by Pei Cobb Freed, Caputo and SD Partners, is the main seat of the Lombardy Regional government. At the top of the tower there is a statue of the Madonnina (a smaller copy of the one on the Duomo), like the one that sits on top of the Pirelli Tower.

#### **Palazzo Marino** [> p. 10]

**Piazza della Scala 2.** A palace built in 1558 for tax collector Tomaso Marino which then became the seat of the city government until 1860. The wall overlooking Teatro alla Scala dates from 1889. This is where the Nun of Monza in Manzoni’s “The Betrothed” was born.

#### **Palazzo Mezzanotte** [> p. 12]

unusual shape makes it a well-known landmark on the city’s skyline. It was added to the protected buildings list in 2011.

#### **Villa Necchi Campiglio** [> p. 30]

**Via Mozart 14.** Designed by the Milanese architect Portaluppi (1932–1935), this museum-home is an example of a Rationalist style private villa from the Thirties. It houses a collection of early 20th century art works by Claudia Gian Ferrari. It is owned by the FAI – Fondo per l’Ambiente Italiano, the Italian National Trust.

#### **Villa Belgiojoso Bonaparte or Villa Reale** > p. 17/31]

**Via Palestro 16.** An outstanding example of Milanese neoclassical architecture, built in 1790 by Leopold Pollack, the villa has a courtyard on the side facing the street, while its facade provides the backdrop for an English-style garden. It was home to Napoleon and Eugenio di Beauharnais, as well as Radetzky, who died there (1857–1858). It now contains the Galleria di Arte Moderna.

\* Two other important sixteenth century buildings: Palazzo Isimbardi (Corso Monforte 35, the headquarters of the Milan provincial government which houses a painting by Giovanbattista Tiepolo and Palazzo Sormani (Corso di Porta Vittoria 6) which is home to the Milan Central Public Library with its interesting Sala del Grechetto.



Left: Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's 1731 frescoes decorate the ballroom in **Palazzo Dugnani**. Lower left: one of the inner courtyards in the 17th century **Palazzo del Senato**. The double order of loggias was something truly new at the time, and was very well received. Lower right: **the home of Alessandro Manzoni** where the author is said to have held spiritualist sessions and experiments with magnetism, much in vogue at the time.



- 1 CASA MUSEO BOSCHI DI STEFANO
- 2 CENACOLO VINCIANO
- 3 CIVICO MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO
- 4 GALLERIE D'ITALIA
- 5 MUSEO INTERATTIVO DEL CINEMA
- 6 MUSEI DEL CASTELLO SFORZESCO
- 7 MUSEO BAGATTI VALSECCI
- 8 MUSEO DEL DUOMO
- 9 MUSEO DEL '900
- 10 MUSEO DELLA PERMANENTE
- 11 MUSEO DIOCESANO
- 12 MUSEO INTER E MILAN



# 7

# The Museums

- 13 MUSEO E CASA DI ALESSANDRO MANZONI
- 14 MUSEO POLDI PEZZOLI
- 15 MUSEO STUDIO FRANCESCO MESSINA
- 16 MUSEO TEATRALE ALLA SCALA
- 17 PALAZZO MORANDO COSTUME MODA IMMAGINE
- 18 PINACOTECA DI BRERA
- 19 MUSEO DEL RISORGIMENTO
- 20 VENERANDA BIBLIOTECA AMBROSIANA
- 21 WOW SPAZIO FUMETTO
- 22 MUBA
- 23 MUDEC

## Basket of fruit

(1594-1598) a work by Caravaggio on exhibit in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana.

**How many museums are there in Milan? A lot! The city offers unique glimpses of every form of culture, from figurative art to the sciences, from ancient history to the recent past.**

## Casa Museo Boschi Di Stefano

**Via Jan 15.** Contains a selection of more than 200 works donated to the City of Milan: masterpieces by Carrà, Fontana, De Chirico, Sironi, De Pisis, Boccioni...

## Cenacolo Vinciano [> p. 14/20]

## Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie.

The dining hall of the monastery Santa Maria delle Grazie contains one of Italy's best-known masterpieces of art: Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" (1495-1497), on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1980. May be viewed with reservations only.

## Civico Museo Archeologico [> p. 12]

**Corso Magenta 15.** Archaeological finds from Roman and medieval Milan, with an Etruscan section, a Greek

section, an Early Middle Ages section and a special exhibition on music.

## Gallerie d'Italia

**Piazza della Scala 6.** The Fondazione Cariplo and Intesa Sanpaolo collections are housed in the halls of Palazzo Anguissola, Palazzo Brentani and in the historical headquarters of the Banca Commerciale. These include works by 18th Italian masters as well as a section dedicated to 19th century masterpieces.

## Museo interattivo del Cinema (MIC)

**Viale Fulvio Testi 121.** Interactive film museum featuring exhibits about the origins of film, images from some of the many films made in Milan, games.

## Musei del Castello Sforzesco [> p. 14]

**Piazza Castello.** Its art collections are what make Castello Sforzesco a top cultural attraction. Worth seeing: **Museo d'Arte Antica** (ancient sculptures from Lombardy and elsewhere, from the 4th to the 16th century); **Pinacoteca** (230 13th to 18th

century Italian paintings, mainly from Lombardy and the Veneto); Michelangelo's *Pietà Rondanini* in the **former Spanish Hospital**; **Museo della Preistoria e Protostoria** (museum of prehistory); **Museo Egizio** (Egyptian museum); **Museo degli Strumenti Musicali** (museum of 15th to 20th century musical instruments); **Civiche Raccolte d'Arte Applicata** (collections of applied arts: ivory, glass, majolica and ceramics and the "Arazzi dei Mesi Trivulzio" 16th century tapestries).  
**Museo Bagatti Valsecchi**  
**Via S. Spirito 10 / via Gesù 5.** In one of Europe's best preserved museum homes, splendid 15th and 16th century artefacts and an unusual collection of fireplaces.  
**Museo del Duomo**  
**Piazza Duomo 12.** Reopened in 2013 with

a major new exhibition it illustrates and highlights the history of the infamous cathedral in Milan.

**Museo del Novecento**  
**Palazzo dell'Arengario, Via Marconi 1.** 400 selected works of 20th century Italian art belonging to the Civic Art Collections of the City of Milan.

**Museo della Permanente**  
**Via Turati 34.** A vast collection of works from the late 19th and 20th centuries and a specialised library documenting the history of the Società per le Belle Arti ed Esposizione Permanente, an important institution on the art scene in Milan.

**Museo Diocesano**  
**Corso di Porta Ticinese 95.** The basilica and cloisters of Sant'Eustorgio contain treasures of art and artefacts testifying



✳ Leonardo da Vinci worked on *The Last Supper* alternating intense sessions with long absences, and the Prior of the church complained to Ludovico il Moro that he was not working very hard.

# of Milan

*«The Last Supper is amazing, comparable only to the frescoes of antiquity...»*  
 Rainer Maria Rilke



Left: Leonardo's **Last Supper**. It is a miracle that we can still see the fresco, for in August 1943 a bomb destroyed most of the church, leaving intact only the wooden wall protecting Leonardo's fresco.

Lower left: the **courtyard of Palazzo di Brera** with the statue of Napoleon depicted as a victorious nude demi-god in its centre.

Lower right: *Portrait of a Girl*, Pollaiuolo's best preserved and one of his most successful portraits, in **Museo Poldi Pezzoli**.



\* The Rotonda di via Besana is home to the MUBA, the Children's Museum where activities, exhibitions and workshops are organised for guided tours and there is a play area and installations that are open to all visitors. The former Ansaldo factory in via Tortona 56 has been transformed into the MUDEC, the Museum of Cultures and is home to a permanent collection of more than 7000 pieces including works of art, artefacts, fabrics and musical instruments from all over the world in an area covering 17000 m<sup>2</sup>.

to the faith of the people of the diocese. Works from the museum of the Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio and the Fondi Oro A. Crespi collection (about 40 14th and 15th century Tuscan and Umbrian paintings on wood).

#### **Museo Inter e Milan**

#### **Piazzale Angelo Moratti - Stadio San Siro.**

The first museum in an Italian football stadium, telling the story of the city's two teams, Inter and Milan, through unique memorabilia (shirts, cups, trophies).

#### **Museo e Casa di Alessandro Manzoni**

**Via Gerolamo Morone 1.** A museum in the home where writer Alessandro Manzoni lived.

#### **Museo Poldi Pezzoli**

**Via Manzoni 12.** A typical Milanese museum-home. The collection includes 14th to 19th century paintings and

**Via Brera 28.** One of Italy's biggest collections of paintings, primarily works from the Lombard and Venetian schools of the 15th and 16th century. Established in the late 18th century as a collection of models for students at the Accademia, it now includes more than 400 works spanning from the 14th century to the avant-garde movements. It contains numerous masterpieces including, to mention only a few: Mantegna's "Lamentation of Christ", Bellini's "Pietà", Tintoretto's "Finding of the body of St. Mark", Raphael's "The Marriage of the Virgin", Caravaggio's "Supper at Emmaus"...

#### **Museo del Risorgimento**

**Via Borgonuovo 23.** In 18th century Palazzo Moriggia, Italian history

# 7

## The Museums of Milan

\* Other places of considerable interest are the "Leonardo Icon" monument by Daniel Libeskind which was inaugurated in the pedestrianised piazza Pio XI opposite the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana; the nearby Mangini Bonomi Museum-Home (Via Ambrosiana 20) houses a collection of objects from Western history and culture; The Holocaust Memorial, inaugurated in 2013 inside the Milan Central Station in front of Platform 21, is where thousands of Milanese Jew were deported to various concentration camps.

great masterpieces by Pollaiolo, Botticelli, Piero della Francesca...

#### **Museo Studio Francesco Messina**

**Ex Chiesa di San Sisto, Via San Sisto 4/A.** 80 sculptures and 26 works on paper selected from among Francesco Messina's most important works.

#### **Museo Teatrale alla Scala**

**Largo Ghiringhelli 1.** Vintage prints, artefacts, costumes and scenery sketches, to find out all about the theatre in the 19th century.

#### **Palazzo Morando**

#### **Costume Moda Immagine**

**Via Sant'Andrea 6.** Major collections of fabrics, clothes and accessories originally included in the Civiche Raccolte d'Arte Applicata in Castello Sforzesco and items from the vast collection of the former Museo di Milano (paintings, sculptures, prints on the evolution of urban planning and society in Milan in the late 18th century and the 19th century).

#### **Pinacoteca di Brera** [> p. 11]

between 1796 and 1870.

#### **Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana Pinacoteca Ambrosiana**

**Piazza Pio XI 2.** The size and value of its collections make the Biblioteca Ambrosiana one of the world's oldest and most complete historic libraries. It includes the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, established by Federico Borromeo in 1618, which now has more than 2,000 paintings, sculptures and fittings, gold items, natural artefacts and various products of the applied arts, as well as more than 22,000 drawings. It includes universally recognised masterpieces such as the precious cartoon for Raphael's "School of Athens" and "Portrait of a Musician", Leonardo's only painting on wood made in Milan.

#### **WOW Spazio Fumetto**

**Viale Campania 12.** In 2011 Fondazione Franco Fossati opened this original space for exhibitions, events, courses and workshops focusing on the ninth art: cartoons.



Left: the hall in the tower in the **Arengario** dedicated to Lucio Fontana, containing his *Struttura al neon* (1951).

Bottom left: Michelangelo's **Pietà Rondanini** now located in its new home within the walls of the former Spanish Hospital. This appears to be the artist's last sculpture which he worked on until a few days before his death. Lower right: the 18th century **Gallerie d'Italia** in Palazzo Anguissola Antona Traversi.



- 1 GAM
- 2 TRIENNALE DESIGN MUSEUM
- 3 EX AREA ANSALDO
- 4 FABBRICA DEL VAPORE (STEAM FACTORY)
- 5 HANGAR BICOCCA
- 6 PAC
- 7 ROTONDA DI VIA BESANA
- 8 SPAZIO OBERDAN
- 9 BOVISA-CERTOSA
- 10 CITY LIFE
- 11 PORTELLO

# 8 Contemporary Art

- 12 BICOCCA-IN THE FORMER PIRELLI FACTORY
- 13 PORTA NUOVA/VARESINE/ISOLA
- 14 THE FONDAZIONE PRADA
- 15 THE FONDAZIONE FELTRINELLI

**Needle, thread and knot**, a sculpture by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen at the centre of Piazzale Cadorna, is an unusual reference to the industriousness and fashion soul of Milan.

During the early 20th century, the architecture of Milan was deeply transformed by modernism and by modernity, moving from the decorative Art Nouveau to the sleeker Art Deco. The **Stazione Centrale**, designed by Ulisse Stacchini in 1912, epitomises this transition. The thirties were a time of monumental architecture, as can be seen in the public buildings **Palazzo di Giustizia** [[> p. 24](#)], **Arengario** [[> p. 10/22](#)] and **Palazzo dell'Arte**, home to the Triennale, and in the private **Villa Necchi Campiglio** [[> p. 24](#)], noted for its elegant purity of line. The search for a new style that would represent the city's economic rebirth, exalting its modernity and functionality, led to the construction of the **Torre Velasca** [[> p. 24](#)] in 1958 (close to the Università Statale, at the end of via Larga) and of the **Grattacielo Pirelli** (1955-60) [[> p. 22](#)].

The new millennium has brought with it an era of growth for the capital of Lombardy, a growth which touches all areas of society and which sees the involvement of some of the greatest exponents of national and international architecture. Contemporary beauty and historical charm are the leitmotifs of the city's great renovation projects involving former brownfield sites. The city's traditional landmarks of fashion, creativity, study, opera, contemporary art, technology, transport, business and finance, have been, and continue to be, flanked by a series of new centres involving entire areas of the city. The **Bovisa-Certosa** project has been injected with a new lease of life with the new **Politecnico** site; the **former Carlo Erba factory** in the Maciachini area of the city now has new buildings designed by Sauerbruch



# in Milan

«Skyscrapers have transformed the lives of the Milanese...»  
Alberto Savinio, *Ascolto il tuo cuore, città* (Listen to your heart, city)

Hutton, Paolo Pasquini, Italo Rota and Alessandro Scandurra; the **City Life** project is reshaping the historical Fiera quarter with new residential buildings but above all with the three soaring towers by the architects Zaha Hadid, Daniel Libeskind and Arata Isozaki; the **World Join Center** (WJC) in **Portello**, based on the master plan by Gino Valle and projects by Cino Zucchi and Guido Canali. New constructions in the **Bicocca area in the former Pirelli factory** are also changing the face of the city where evidence of the industrial past form the backdrop to the Università degli Studi, research centres and the Arcimboldi Theatre as well as the headquarters of numerous companies in the **New Exhibition Centre area in Rho-Pero** designed by Massimiliano Fuksas and redevelopment of **piazza XXV Aprile**. A central role in the

transformation of the city was the **Porta Nuova/Varesine/Isola** project that completely redesigned the city skyline and transformed the Centro Direzionale di Milano business area by modifying the makeup of the area by piazza Gae Aulenti, shrouded by the **UniCredit Tower** of César Pelli and surrounded by the **Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest)** by the Boeri Studio, the **Solaria, Solea** and **Aria residential towers** by di Arquitectonica, the **Diamond Tower** by Kohn Pederson Fox and the **Harmonica** pavilions by Piuarch and the **UniCredit Pavilion** by Michele De Lucchi. Even the **Assago-Milanofiori north area** has undergone a striking transformation based on a master plan by Erik van Egeraat and projects by Cino Zucchi, ABDA, Park Associati and OBR. Finally there have been three important initiatives that are extremely significant in terms of

Left: the 106m tall **Torre Velasca** contains offices and shops on the lower floors and apartments on the upper floors. Centre: the **Grattaciolo Pirelli**, known locally as the "Pirellone", was the highest building in Milan for almost 50 years. Right: **Palazzo Lombardia**, the new site of Regione Lombardia.



\* Important moments in the social and cultural life of the city include events such as MiArt, the International Fair of Modern and Contemporary Art which is held in Fieramilanocity in March and the Salone del Mobile, the Milan International Furniture Fair which, with the Fuorisalone events brings design to the forefront in April for those in and outside the industry.

research, culture and art that include the new **Bocconi University Campus** by the Japanese firm SANAA on the former Centrale del Latte di Milano site, the **Fondazione Feltrinelli** from the Herzog & de Meuron project in Porta Volta and the **Fondazione Prada** by OMA/Rem Koolhaas in Largo Isarco, where modern art has space to express itself in a project that interprets the theme of redeveloping a disused area in very original ways.

**With an eye firmly focused on the future Milan is watching new artistic trends with keen interest and is creating new exhibition spaces as in the case of the Milan Contemporary Art Park inside the City Life quarter.**

**GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna Via Palestro 16.** A visit to the GAM gallery is a two-fold pleasure, enabling patrons to enjoy the interiors of **Villa Reale** [**> p. 17/24**] and admire hundreds of paintings from one of the richest collections of 19th century art in Italy (Museo dell'Ottocento, Museum of 19th Century Art). The exhibition opens with Neoclassicism, moving through Romanticism, Realism and the Scapigliatura movement, to end with Divisionism. With time the Gallery has been enriched with the addition of the **Grassi Collection** (works by 19th and 20th century Italian and foreign artists), the **Vismara Collection** (masterpieces of modern and contemporary Italian

# 8

## Contemporary Art in Milan

\* Other locations intended to showcase works by artists and Milanese cultural icons include the Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro in its new premises in Via Vigevano 9, which, as well as housing the permanent collection of the sculpture's works, also holds temporary exhibitions, and Studio Museo Achille Castiglioni in Piazza Castello 27, where the backdrop and the plethora of pieces on display tell the story of the professional career of this important designer.





To the side:  
the **UniCredit Tower**  
complex that looms  
over piazza Gae Aulenti.  
Bottom left:  
the **Solaria, Solea**  
and **Aria** residential  
towers frame the  
**Vertical Forest** in  
the background.  
Bottom centre: piazza  
Gae Aulenti, with the  
central part with a  
seating area, fountains  
with spraying jets of  
water and shopping  
arcades. Right: the  
view of the **UniCredit  
Tower** from the  
**Diamond Tower** passing  
by the **Diamantini**,  
the small diamonds,  
and the **Solaria, Solea**  
and **Aria** towers.



and foreign artists from Picasso to Morandi) and the **Marino Marini Collection** (which provides an insight into the artist's career through an overview of his sculptures; now housed in the Museo del Novecento, the Twentieth Century Museum).

#### **Triennale Design Museum**

**Viale Alemagna 6.** Opened in 2007, this is the first and only museum dedicated to Italian design in all its manifestations. The Triennale Design Museum, a unique museum of its kind in Italy, situated on the historical premises of the Triennale, continuously renews itself, offering ever new and diversified exhibitions.

**In addition to the traditional exhibition spaces of the Palazzo Reale, Museo del**

Painted entirely in dark blue, home to contemporary art exhibitions, research projects and training sessions. The permanent installation, "I Sette Palazzi Celesti" ("The Seven Heavenly Palaces") by Anselm Kiefer, is well worth a visit.

#### **PAC Padiglione di Arte Contemporanea**

**Via Palestro 16.** The PAC is situated in a courtyard of the Villa Reale, once home to stables destroyed during the war. Designed by Ignazio Gardella (1948-1954), it was rebuilt by the architect, following the original design, after it was almost destroyed by a deadly mafia bomb in 1993. The venue organises exclusively temporary exhibitions featuring a wide range of well-established international artists.

# 8

## Contemporary Art in Milan

**Novecento (Museum of 20th Century Art), Palazzo della Ragione and Castello Sforzesco, Milan offers countless experimental venues for young talents and every form of artistic expression.**

#### **Ex Area Ansaldo**

**Via Tortona 54.** The 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> former Ansaldo factory site now houses **MUDEC, The Museum of Cultures**, which features a series of intercultural exhibitions and multimedia projects.

#### **Fabbrica del Vapore (Steam Factory)**

**Via Procaccini 4.** The Milan City Council conceived this facility especially for its younger generations. The former steam engine and tram factory has been transformed into a "creative workshop" offering a full schedule of exhibitions and educational and cultural initiatives throughout the year.

#### **Hangar Bicocca**

**Via Chiese 2.** A former industrial plant

#### **Rotonda in Via Besana**

**Via Enrico Besana 12.** This typically 18th century monument was built in 1695 as a cemetery for the dead of the Ospedale Maggiore, a large hospital that was housed in the nearby Ca'Granda. It comprises the Chiesa di San Michele surrounded by a circular arcade. Home to the MUBA, the Museo dei Bambini, the Children's Museum which organises exhibitions-games, events and creative workshops dedicated to children.

#### **Spazio Oberdan**

**Viale Vittorio Veneto 2.** One of the best known multifunctional centres in Milan, organising artistic projects of international repute. The exhibition hall is situated on the first floor. The venue comprises a 700 sq.m exhibition area for art and photography exhibitions and a 200-seat auditorium hosting film reviews.



Left: the new building of the **Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi**, winner of the "World Building of the Year Award". Lower left: entrance to **Palazzo dell'Arte**, home to the Triennale, built between 1932 and 1933. Lower right: **Hangar Bicocca**, an exhibition, research and training centre; below, the **Fabbrica del Vapore**, a youth centre for cultural production.



- 1 ACQUARIO CIVICO AND STAZIONE IDROBIOLOGICA
- 2 CIVICO MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE
- 3 CIVICO PLANETARIO "ULRICO HOEPLI"
- 4 MUSEO ASTRONOMIC DI BRERA
- 5 MUSEO NAZIONALE DELLA SCIENZA E DELLA TECNOLOGIA "LEONARDO DA VINCI"
- 6 ORTO BOTANICO DI BRERA



# 9

# Milan: a City

With Italy's largest Science and Technology Museum, Milan has a scientific side which children adore and adults find amazing.

## Acquario Civico and Stazione Idrobiologica

**Viale Gadio 2.** One of the oldest aquariums in the world and housed in an Art Nouveau building adorned with aquatic themed external decorations, it is the only remaining trace of the Milan International Expo of 1906. Here there are more than one hundred different aquatic species from the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and Italian freshwater rivers and lakes. In addition, educational routes teach visitors about the water cycle and fishing. On the same site as the aquarium are the Stazione Idrobiologica and a Biblioteca (Library) specializing in marine biology and aquatic sciences.

The **Enrico Toti submarine** is the first submarine built in Italy after World War II. It can now be seen at the Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia.

**Civico Museo di Storia Naturale** [[> p. 36](#)] **Corso Venezia 55.** The Natural History Museum preserves animals, fossils, dinosaurs, spectacular colourful dioramas and plastic reconstructions, in Italy's most significant collection of its kind. A few must-sees are a 20m long whale skeleton that was found on the coasts of Sardinia and a model of a pteranodon, a flying reptile from 70 million years ago which hangs from the ceiling. The specialized library contains 30,000 books, 200 periodicals and 60,000 booklets; the prominent collections of insects, birds, minerals, rocks and fossils are especially intended for scholars.

**Civico Planetario "Ulrico Hoepli"** [[> p. 36](#)] **Corso Venezia 57.** Built in 1929 by Piero Portaluppi, on behalf of the publisher Ulrich Hoepli who then donated it to the city, the Planetarium consists of a large domed room with



# of Science

*«The people of Milan are always cheerful and inquisitive. They're a pleasure to watch.»*  
Jacob Burckhardt

special equipment in the centre that simulates the complex motions of celestial bodies.

## Museo Astronomico di Brera

**Via Brera 28.** The Astronomic Museum contains instruments that belonged to the Osservatorio Astronomico, created in 1760 to study the stars, and is recognized as the oldest scientific research institute of the city. Outfitted in 1983, it preserves its ancient instrumentation.

## Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia "Leonardo da Vinci"

**Via San Vittore 21.** Housed in a 16th century former Olivetan monastery, this museum is one of the largest and most documented European collections dedicated to the evolution of scientific thought. A visit will require several hours and may be divided over more than one day, according to interest. If you want to get a general overview,

you should immediately go to the first floor dedicated to Leonardo, then the two spectacular outdoor pavilions on train, air and naval transportation, and finally the ground floor with its history of energy, mining, steel, metal and land transportation. Since December 2005, the museum also houses the Toti submarine. Its arrival in August of 2005 was followed by thousands of Milanese locals and was a true "event": it arrived into the city by river and by road in the middle of the night to avoid blocking traffic.

## Orto Botanico di Brera

**Via Brera 28.** Founded in 1774, the botanical gardens cover about 5,000 square metres and are shaded by large trees. Amongst the most spectacular plants are two giant ginkgo biloba trees dating back to the time of the garden's foundation and a linden tree 30 metres high.

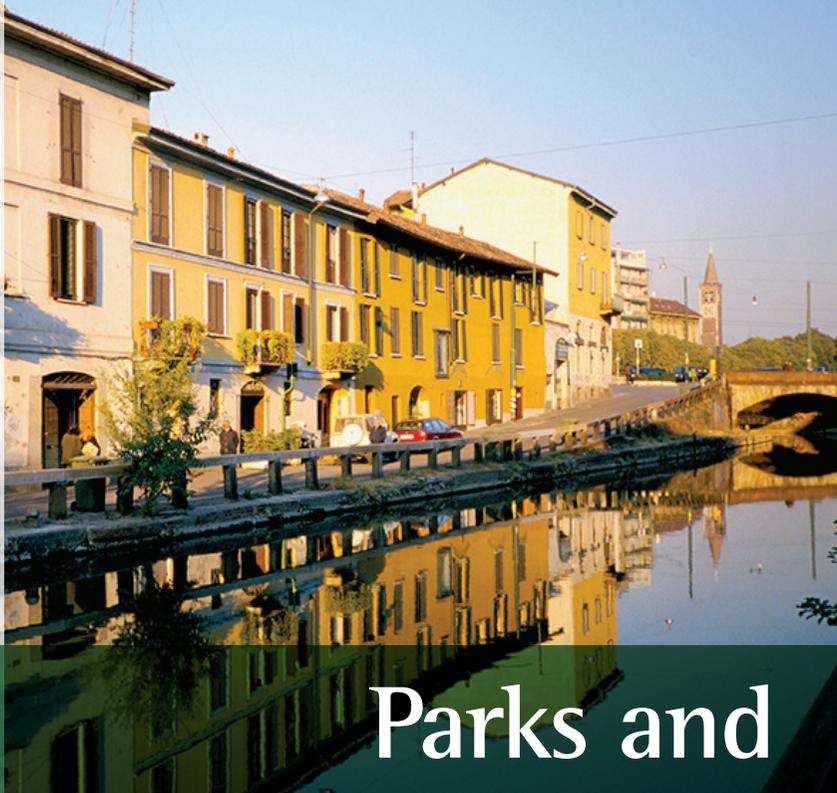
Left: immersed in the greenery of the Giardini Pubblici Indro Montanelli is the **Civico Museo di Storia Naturale**, one of the largest natural history museums in Europe.

Top: the entrance to the **Civico Planetario**; inaugurated in 1930, it is one of Italy's largest planetariums.

Below: the interior of the **Acquario Civico**, updated in 2003-2006.



- 1 GIARDINO DELLA GUASTALLA
- 2 GIARDINI PUBBLICI INDRO MONTANELLI EX GIARDINI PUBBLICI DI PORTA VENEZIA
- 3 GIARDINO DELLA VILLA COMUNALE
- 4 PARCO GIOVANNI PAOLO II EX PARCO DELLE BASILICHE
- 5 PARCO SEMPIONE
- 6 THE CANALS (NAVIGLI)



# 10

# Parks and

The **Alzaia del Naviglio Grande** still offers a glimpse of the Milan of yesteryear. The Navigli were the first examples of hydraulic engineering in Lombardy (12th century). Its innovative system of locks, still visible today, was partly conceived by Leonardo da Vinci.

The Navigli, canals lined by narrow alleyways and traditional houses with communal balconies, and the city's "green oases", with their picnic, entertainment and sports areas, preserve the feel of yesteryear Milan. Inside the City Life quarter a new concept of urban green areas has been designed: the Milan Contemporary Art Park "ArtLine Milano", a series of art installations, is an innovative journey in a city in constant transformation.

**Giardino della Guastalla Via Guastalla.** This well concealed secret corner was once annexed to the Guastalla college for girls. Age-old trees provide the backdrop for the fish pond with stone balustrades, a jewel of Baroque architecture. The Jewish temple (1890-92) is situated opposite the entrance.

**Giardini Pubblici Indro Montanelli ex Giardini Pubblici di Porta Venezia Bastioni di Porta Venezia, via Manin, via Palestro, corso Venezia.** This was the first park of Milan designed for public use. Created by Piermarini in the late 18th century, the park underwent several refurbishments throughout the years. In 2002 it was renamed after the late journalist Indro Montanelli (1909-2001). The park comprises a number of important buildings, such as the **Palazzo Dugnani** [[> p. 17/24](#)]; the **Civico Museo di Storia Naturale** [[> p. 34](#)] and the **Planetario "Ulrico Hoepli"** [[> p. 34](#)]. **Giardino della Villa Belgiojoso Bonaparte ex Giardino della Villa Comunale Via Palestro.** This is one of the earliest English-style gardens in Milan, created at the request of the count



# Canals

«...the Naviglio is worth 50 gold ducats, and yields 125,000 ducats a year. It is 40 miles long and 20 ells wide...» Leonardo Da Vinci

Lodovico Barbiano of Belgiojoso, an important member of the Milanese nobility and of the Hapsburg court. It is entirely devoted to children and accompanying adults. A small waterfall gushes out of the rocks and trickles down into a stream that crosses the park, ending in a small lake featuring an island with a small circular temple.

## Parco Giovanni Paolo II ex Parco delle Basiliche

**Via Molino delle Armi.** The park is nestled between the basilicas of San Lorenzo and Sant'Eustorgio. It was developed in 1953 with the idea of creating an "archaeological walkway" uniting the apses of these two important churches.

## Parco Sempione

**Piazza Castello.** The largest English-style park in Milan is entirely fenced in and includes numerous recreational

areas. It owes its name to its position along the line that leads through the Arco della Pace, from the Duomo to the Simplon Pass. The Castello Sforzesco, Arena, Arco della Pace, Triennale and Acquario Civico stand along the park's perimeter.

## The Canals (Navigli)

Although far from Italy's great rivers and seas, Milan, like Venice, was for many centuries a navigable city due to an intricate system of canals that once crisscrossed the city. At that time the city had a circular port – the **Circle of the Navigli** – and three small ports connected to it: Santo Stefano (today **Piazza Santo Stefano**), San Marco (**Piazza San Marco**) and St Eustorgio, which then became the **Dock in Porta Ticinese** that has been recently redeveloped. Connected to the Circle of the Navigli by the **Viarenna Basin** that

Top: the monumental facade of the **Villa Belgiojoso Bonaparte**, or **Villa Reale**.

Top left: a tree-lined path through the **Giardini Pubblici Indro Montanelli**.

Top right: the view from the balustrades of the fish pond in the **Giardino della Guastalla** spans across the lawns, as far as the city.



is still visible at the beginning of via Conca del Naviglio, the **Naviglio Grande** supplied water to the Docks which then flowed into the **Naviglio Pavese** (the two canals have opposite flows) thus creating a “circle of water” which was the main supply and trade route in the city for centuries through the use of flat bottomed barges that travelled up and downstream pulled by horses (or by men when necessary) along the so-called tow-paths. Today, the first stretch of the **Naviglio Grande** – the oldest of the two navigable canals, dating back to the 13th century – still features its characteristic low-rise period buildings, and is enlivened by numerous venues, pubs and restaurants, making it one of

along its tract it is still possible to see 12 locks (decommissioned in 1978) that allowed the barges to overcome the 52 metre difference in elevation between the arrival and departure points. Along the Naviglio Pavese, it is worth visiting the **Chiesa Rossa** (or Red Church, named after its characteristic red bricks), with its ancient and complex history. To the south of the Villoresi canal, the system of Navigli includes the **Naviglio della Martesana**, or **Naviglio Piccolo** (1460), that connects Milan to the Adda River, from which it receives its waters. Several cycling paths lie along the canal, spanning from via De Marchi to Cassano d’Adda, 30 km outside Milan.

# 10

## Parks and Canals

the city’s trendiest areas. On the last Sunday of every month it hosts an open-air “antiques fair”. Further along the Alzaia del Naviglio Grande lies the **Vicolo dei Lavandai**, a narrow alleyway featuring old stone washtubs. Heading in the direction of the suburbs, one comes upon the attractive church of **San Cristoforo al Naviglio**, made up of two buildings, one Romanesque and the other Gothic. Boatmen travelling from the Ticino River used to consider the church’s 15th century bell tower a lighthouse indicating the proximity of Milan. The **Naviglio Pavese** flows out of the Darsena for a stretch of 33 km, where it flows into the Ticino River, close to Pavia. A number of barges, now transformed into bars and pubs, can be seen moored along the left bank (via Ascanio Sforza). The canal was made navigable as late as 1819, and





Left: the **Arco della Pace**, in the far corner of the Parco Sempione, is one of Milan's most characteristic Neoclassical monuments. Started in 1807 as a tribute to Napoleon, it was dedicated in 1838 to Francis I of Austria and in 1859 to the independence of Italy. Bottom, left: the charming church of **San Cristoforo sul Naviglio**, which stands on the banks of the Naviglio Grande canal. Bottom, right: the **Naviglio della Martesana**, also known as the Naviglio Piccolo, the small canal (Naviglio Piccolo).



- 1 CORSO BUENOS AIRES
- 2 CORSO DI PORTA TICINESE
- 3 CORSO VITTORIO EMANUELE II
- 4 QUADRILATERO DELLA MODA
- 5 VIA PAOLO SARPI
- 6 VIA SAVONA, VIA TORTONA, VIA BERGOGNONE
- 7 VIA TORINO



# Shopping

When it comes to shopping in Milan one primarily thinks of fashion; after all, this is nerve centre of the “Made in Italy” industry. The showrooms of all Italian manufacturers are located here, and it’s where buyers for worldwide distribution find the one and only “Italian style”. Milanese fashion is about luxury, but it also offers innovative ideas. Outside the fashion district - a must for those who want to buy designer apparel and accessories - almost everything can be found, from large international brands to small boutiques. But shopping in Milan also means exploring the many local **open-air markets** where all kinds of goods can be purchased, from groceries to clothing, and where one can look for furniture, decorative items and works of art amongst the numerous **antique shops** in the Brera and Navigli areas. Not to mention Milan’s famous **culinary classics**, recipients of the DE.co denomination (Denominazione Comunale, or Municipal Denomination) covering typical products such as the cotoletta alla milanese, ossobuco, risotto, cassoeula, and panettone, but also characteristic dishes that are on the “endangered list”, so to speak. It is no coincidence, then, that there are still so many **historic shops** in Milan, part of the city’s heritage as well as a point of reference for the Milanese people and tourists.

**Corso Buenos Aires** is 1,200 metres long and has more than 350 shops to meet everyone’s needs. It is one of Europe’s most famous shopping streets.

**Corso di Porta Ticinese** is the right place for those looking for alternative shops and boutiques, for vintage clothing and ethnic and natural products.

**Corso Vittorio Emanuele II** is a classic for downtown promenades, which has been a pedestrian area since 1985. Here you’ll find numerous shops, especially

**Via Monte Napoleone**, or “Montenapo” for Milanese locals, is a symbol of luxury, exclusive shopping and is undoubtedly the most elegant street in the city.

for clothing and low cost department stores, in addition to **Rinascente**, the true “temple” of Milanese shopping. With 8 floors, it truly offers everything – even an opportunity to lunch with a close-up view of the Duomo’s spires.

**The fashion district:** **via Monte Napoleone**, **via Manzoni**, **via della Spiga** and **corso Venezia** are the four streets that make up an imaginary square where the shops and ateliers of the most important names in fashion are concentrated.

First and foremost of these Milanese streets is Monte Napoleone, which is considered one of the fifteen most luxurious and expensive streets in the world. Walking in this area is like diving into beauty and unbridled wealth. During the fashion shows, the whole area becomes one big social event, and aristocrats’ courtyards and buildings are often open to curious visitors.

**Via Paolo Sarpi** with its neighbouring via Canonica is Milan’s **Chinatown**. The shops are generally less expensive, but offer quality products.

**Via Savona**, **Via Tortona**, **Via Bergognone** are full of “pop-up shops”, stores that are open for a limited period of time (a few weeks). It is the perfect area to find quality and trendy pieces, including designer and multi-brand spaces.

**Via Torino** was once a street of craftsmen’s workshops; now it is one of the major centres of Milanese shopping for all tastes and budgets (with numerous low-cost clothing chain stores).



\* Many legends have flourished through the centuries around the birth of the “pane di Toni” (literally the “bread of Toni”, as it was called in the 18th century), but it was Angelo Motta who made “panettone” a symbol of Milan in the 20th century by cooking it in a paper cylinder, giving it its present form.

# in Milan

*«To the hastiest observation,  
Milan could hardly seem lacking in interest.»*

Edith Wharton



Left: the seventh floor of the **Rinascente department store**, named by Gabriele D'Annunzio, offers an amazing view of the Duomo's spires.



Lower left: there are many **delicatessens** in the city that boast a long history. The best are those that have retained their charm, furniture, style and service over time. Lower right: in the heart of Milan there are many **innovative shopping areas** combining fashion, art, beauty and food.

- 1 TEATRO ALLA SCALA
- 2 AUDITORIUM
- 3 CONSERVATORIO GIUSEPPE VERDI
- 4 TEATRO DEGLI ARCIMBOLDI
- 5 TEATRO DAL VERME
- 6 TEATRO NUOVO
- 7 BLUE NOTE
- 8 SCIMMIE
- 9 LA SALUMERIA DELLA MUSICA
- 10 PICCOLO TEATRO DI MILANO
- 11 TEATRO GRASSI
- 12 TEATRO STUDIO
- 13 TEATRO STREHLER
- 14 TEATRO F. PARENTI



# 12

# Entertainment,

- 15 TEATRO FILODRAMMATICI
- 16 TEATRIDTHALIA
- 17 CRT TEATRO DELL'ARTE
- 18 TEATRO CARCANO
- 19 TEATRI MANZONI, NAZIONALE, S. BABILA
- 20 TEATRO CIAK
- 21 AREA ZELIG CABARET
- 22 STADIO SAN SIRO "GIUSEPPE MEAZZA"
- 23 IPPODROMI SAN SIRO
- 24 LIDO DI MILANO
- 25 IDROSCALO
- 26 ARENA CIVICA "GIANNI BRERA"
- 27 VELODROMO VIGORELLI

The **Scala's** boxes were all remade except for one, which survived the 1943 bombings.

Milan is a city that creates its own trends: art galleries in bars, concerts in libraries, aperitifs in grand hotels - it is a "cool" city where there is room for every form of expression, whether it be opera, theatre, entertainment, music or sports.

## Music

Some of the world's most renowned artists perform in Milan. Performances (operas, ballets, concerts) at the **Teatro alla Scala** are not to be missed, where the season begins on 7 December, the day of St. Ambrose, patron saint of Milan. Its stage equipment has been renovated (2001-2004) and now the operatic powerhouse is up to par with the largest theatres in Europe and the world. Offering a more intensive musical program is the **Auditorium**, home of the Orchestra Sinfonica and Coro di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, the **Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi** (auditorium Sala Verdi at the Conservatorio, Sala Puccini in the

Conservatorio), the **Teatro degli Arcimboldi**, a one-of-a-kind structure in terms of its construction, acoustics and visuals, the **Teatro Dal Verme** and the **Teatro Nuovo**. Many concerts are held in churches, most notably at the Basilica di San Marco. For blues and jazz enthusiasts, **Blue Note** offers an excellent selection of concerts, alternating foreign and well-known Italian stars, and historic venues like the **Scimmie** and **La Salumeria della Musica** are a "must" for fans of the genre.

## Theatres

From theatre to cabaret, Milan offers a vast range of shows. The **Piccolo Teatro di Milano**, the first civic theatre in Italy, is an institution - actually three, because over the years, from the primordial Piccolo Teatro on via Rovello (now called the **Teatro Grassi**), it has been accompanied by the **Teatro Studio** and the **Teatro Strehler**. They put on in-house productions and host prestigious



# Sports and Leisure

*«San Siro was the swellest course I'd ever seen.»*  
Ernest Hemingway

foreign performances, as does the **Teatro Franco Parenti**. A more traditional repertoire takes place at the **Teatro Filodrammatici**, while more experimental shows take place at the **Teatro dell'Elfo Teatridithalia** and the **CRT Teatro dell'Arte**. Ranging from drama, dance, varieties and musicals, are the **Carcano**, **Manzoni**, **Nazionale**, and **San Babila** theatres. Since 2002 the Teatro della Luna has become the undisputed home to musicals in Milan. The most highly-esteemed cabarets are the **Teatro Ciak** and at the **Area Zelig Cabaret**, a historical venue which also has a successful television show, filmed at the Teatro degli Arcimboldi.

## Sports

All types of sports are played in the city, and many significant international matches take place here. Milan is the only city in Europe whose two football teams (Internazionale and A.C. Milan) have won the Champions League. Football finds its

home at the **Stadio San Siro "Giuseppe Meazza"** which can be visited with a tour of its adjoining museum [[> p. 28](#)]. Since 1920 the equine world has had a prestigious home: the **Ippodromi di San Siro**, which has witnessed innumerable triumphs by famous thoroughbreds. Basketball and volleyball will soon return to the Palalido which is undergoing an extensive facelift. The **Lido di Milano** is a large, fully equipped outdoor pool that opens from June to September. The **Idroscalo** artificial lake hosts many different water sports. Large athletic events are held at the **Arena civica "Gianni Brera"** which dates back to the Napoleonic era. Here many great sporting achievements have been witnessed as well as the first Giro d'Italia. Cycling was also held at the **Velodromo Vigorelli** in the past and many records were set here by Coppi, Anquetil and Moser (it also hosts other sporting events).

Top left: the **Piccolo Teatro di Milano Teatro d'Europa - Teatro Strehler** on Largo Greppi. Right: the **Teatro degli Arcimboldi**. Lower left: the **Stadio San Siro**; centre: the **Cavallo di Leonardo**, a large bronze statue inspired by Leonardo's drawings, located in front of the Parco dell'Ippodromo di Milano; right: a jazz show.



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# 13

# Outside Milan

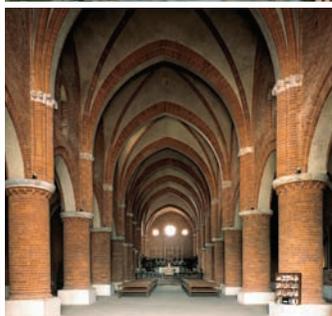
A trip outside town will lead you to discover the “Bassa Milanese” area with its medieval abbeys, the city of Monza, and the city’s complex “water system”: in Milan you can!

**Abbazia di Chiaravalle**  
**Via Sant’Arialdo 102, Chiaravalle Milanese.** In the green of the Parco Agricolo Sud di Milano and easily reachable by public transportation (bus 77 from Piazza Medaglie d’Oro) one can visit the abbey which was the cornerstone of the agricultural development of the southern hinterland of Milan. Founded in 1135, it is marked by a conspicuous steeple, a brick and marble tower, called “ciribiciaccola” in a nursery rhyme in Milanese dialect. The church (1172-1221) is a must-see, along with the remains of the Gothic cloister (13th century) and the chapter house with graffiti by Bramante and frescoes.

**Abbazia di Viboldone**  
**Via dell’Abbazia 7, San Giuliano Milanese.** It is located 12 km from Milan, following the highway towards Lodi. Only the church remains of the abbey founded on 5 February 1176 by the Umiliati order, and it is one of the most important Lombard Gothic constructions. It contains beautiful 14th century frescoes by Giotto’s pupils.

**Abbazia di Mirasole**  
**Strada Consortile del Mirasole, Opera.** Ten kilometres from the city, this architectural complex - founded in the first half of the 13th century by the Umiliati order - includes church buildings alongside working areas (stables, farmyard, weaving mills). Not surprisingly, the modern structure of the Lombard farmhouse takes inspiration from this type of building. Mirasole has preserved the original structure of the 14th century Santa

The **Giardini della Villa Reale di Monza** took shape between 1778 and 1783. Piermarini integrated the typical Italian garden with elements of British origin, dividing the gardens into English gardens, orchards and botanical gardens - complete with wild animals.



*«Brianza is the most attractive area of Italy.»*  
Henry Beyle Stendhal

Maria Assunta church as well as the bell tower and the abbey's prized cloister.

### Abbazia di Morimondo

**Piazza S. Bernardo 1, Morimondo.**

Thirty kilometres from Milan, this Cistercian abbey was the first building of its kind in Lombardy and the fourth in Italy. Its period of greatest splendor was between the 13th and 14th centuries. The church (1182-1292) is well preserved. During the Christmas season a beautiful display of nativity scenes takes place.

### Cruise down the Navigli

To learn about the landscape of the Milanese area, several smaller cruises are offered, starting from the **Alzaia del Naviglio Grande**; they offer a historical immersion while sailing the same waters of ships from olden times, passing through routes in the Naviglio Grande and Pavese. For more detailed information, visit [www.navigliombardi.it](http://www.navigliombardi.it)

### Monza and its Villa

Mostly famous for its racing circuit, Monza can be easily reached from Milan by public transportation (train and bus from the Stazione Centrale). The town's main monument is its **Gothic Duomo** (13th-14th century) accompanied by a bell tower from 1606. The altar of Teodolinda's chapel – frescoed by the Zavattari (1444) – contains the Corona del Ferro, the iron crown said to have been made with a nail from Christ's cross. Covered with gold and studded with gems (5th-8th centuries), it was used from the Middle Ages on to crown the kings of Italy. Not to be missed is the magnificent **Villa Reale** (1777-1870), residence of the Habsburg court erected under the leadership of Piermarini; King Umberto I was killed here in 1900. The racing circuit (1922) is located in the Park, created in 1806.

Left: The **Abbazia di Chiaravalle** with its beautiful bell tower. Centre, above: **minicruise** along Milan's Navigli. Centre, below: the sober interior of the **Abbazia di Morimondo** is characterized by its brickwork. Right: details of the frescoes in the **chiesa abbaziale di Viboldone**.



- **Tourist Information**

Information on monuments, visiting hours and ticket prices for museums, churches, events and all other exhibition spaces can be found on individual websites or on:

[www.turismo.milano.it](http://www.turismo.milano.it)  
[www.turismo.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.turismo.regione.lombardia.it)

**InfoMilano Tourist Office**

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, on the corner of Piazza della Scala  
☎0288455555

- **Wi-Fi and App**

A free public Wi-Fi network is available in dedicated access points. For detailed information on areas covered by the service see:

**Open WiFi Milano**  
[www.openwifimilano.it](http://www.openwifimilano.it)

telephone number to book taxis ☎027777.  
**Autoradiotaxi** ☎028585 [www.028585.it](http://www.028585.it)  
**Taxi Blu** ☎024040/026767 [www.taxiblu.it](http://www.taxiblu.it)  
**Yellowtaxi** ☎026969 [www.026969.it](http://www.026969.it)

You can also use the **bike sharing** and **car sharing** services (hiring bikes and cars to be picked up and dropped off at established points around the city).

**BikeMi** [www.bikemi.com](http://www.bikemi.com)  
**Car2Go** [www.car2go.com](http://www.car2go.com)  
**enjoy** [www.enjoy.eni.com/it/milano](http://www.enjoy.eni.com/it/milano)  
**E-vai** [www.e-vai.com](http://www.e-vai.com)  
**GuidaMi** [www.atm.it/it/guidami](http://www.atm.it/it/guidami)  
[www.muoversi.milano.it](http://www.muoversi.milano.it)

- **Area C and Parking**

**Area C** regulates access by car in the **ZTL Cerchia dei Bastioni** area (Milan city centre).

It is active on Mondays, Tuesdays,

# Useful Information

For constantly updated information on events, itineraries and transport the following Apps are available:

**Eventi Milano**  
**Milanoltinerari**  
**ATM Milano Official App**

- **Getting around**

Milan consists of a series of concentric circles that start at Piazza del Duomo. For help getting around the city there is a dedicated site from the City of Milan:  
[www.muoversi.milano.it](http://www.muoversi.milano.it)

There is a comfortable and extensive network of **public transport ATM** (Azienda Trasporti Milanese, ☎0248607607 [www.atm.it](http://www.atm.it)). On the [www.atm.it/it/Giromilano](http://www.atm.it/it/Giromilano) website you can create your own route, consult routes and timetables, display stops and find the nearest place to buy tickets.

**Taxis** are also recommended to get around the city.

The City of Milan has set up a specific

Wednesdays and Fridays (working days), from 7.30 to 19.30, and Thursdays (working days), from 7.30 to 18.00. Motorbikes, scooters, electric, hybrid, LPG, bi-fuel vehicles, as well as those carrying the disabled are exempt from payment. To enter Area C it is necessary to pay a fee of 5 euro that can be bought from parking meters, newsagents, tobacconists, ATM Points, IntesaSanpaolo ATM machines and online from the website [www.areac.it](http://www.areac.it), where you can find more detailed information.

- **Sightseeing Tours**

There are many different ways to visit Milan with historical trams, sightseeing buses and boats on the navigli, to get charming and spectacular views of the city.

For more information on the types of tours on offer go to:  
[www.turismo.milano.it](http://www.turismo.milano.it)>scopri la città>tour



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