

A great escape

Portrait Milano is a design classic in the making - quiet luxury in a feast of a city

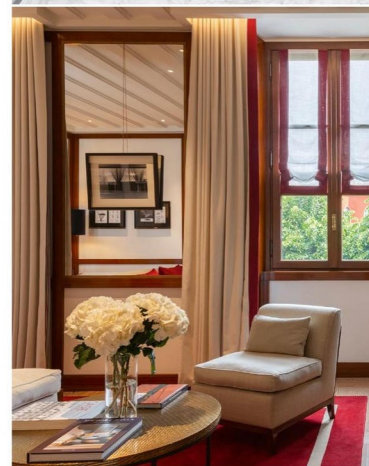
WE shouldn't need to convince you that a weekend break in Milan is a good idea. Of course it's the centre of contemporary design, but also it's the place for delicious food, great shopping and beautiful architecture. However, we might need to persuade you of its suitability as a relaxing, luxurious escape. Enter Portrait Milano.

Located just off the city's buzzy main shopping street, the Portrait is a design retreat in the most literal sense. This is noticeable from the moment you enter; heading through an elegant gateway into a spectacular courtyard, we were immediately swept away by the spatial luxury and sheer sense of quiet. The original building - the hotel is in a reclaimed seminary - takes centre stage. This is that rare hotel conversion of a characterful building; one that is truly respectful of the original bones yet doesn't compromise on any front. Our

room, located off the first floor loggia, was decorated in tones of red, umber and gold. It was generous and inviting - most indulgent was the large dressing room and all-marble bathroom. The look is incredibly Italian. Indeed, the hotel is owned by the Ferragamo family, so style is the overriding experience, with chic furniture, beautifully curated.

A hotel's allure is about the public spaces too, and these are just as perfectly executed - from the intimate but buzzy bar clearly in vogue with the local fashion crowd to the remarkably sunny terrace for a gelato or glass of Franciacorta. Just as delightfully surprising was the breakfast - a feast of flavours, with Italian cakes, breads and amazing coffee a real highlight.

Hotels are about escape, ultimately. The Portrait Milano allows that in every sense - a quiet design-soon-to-be classic at the heart of a wonderful city. 📍



FEATURE SARAH SPITERI