

**DIVINE INSPIRATION**

The Duomo is one of Milan's most beloved and uplifting attractions.

Opposite: The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II was the world's first multi-storey shopping mall.



# Milan Magic

It's time to say buongiorno to Milan, a sophisticated city full of world-class cuisine, fashion, culture, ancient wonders, modern attractions and endless secrets to explore.

PHOTOGRAPHY LEA ANOUCHINSKY • WORDS CHIARA DAL CANTO

**MY KITCHEN RULES**

Simona and Claudio Romanini run Ristorante Al Mercante (right); The veal with tuna sauce and raw scampi, lobster and seaweed is delicious (bottom); The restaurant is big with Milan's lunchtime crowd thanks to its cuisine and cosy vibe.



**LOCAL HEROES**

**Ristorante Al Mercante**

Opened in the early 1900s in the Casa dei Panigarola, a 15th-century palace in Piazza dei Mercanti, Ristorante Al Mercante has been run since 1976 by the Romanini family. Initially it was run by parents Margherita and Corrado, but now it is run by their children Simona and Claudio, handing down the values that have always characterised the restaurant. Serving a variety of tasty meals from meat and seafood to vegetarian, Al Mercante is a landmark for business lunches and lovers of the Milanese culinary tradition, so much so that it was recognised as a Historic Shop of Milan in 2010. *Via Cesare Cantù, 7-20123, Milan ristorantealmercante.it*

are active engines all year round, expressing its creative and international character. They anticipate the future and serve as laboratories for experimentation.

But what is pleasing about Milan, and what characterises it, is its ability to keep certain memories alive, to preserve places rich in history, and not to erase a heritage that generations have gradually passed down. Milan is a cultured city, with beautiful historic libraries, a temple of music (La Scala), valuable buildings, museums and events running all throughout the year.

We can also talk about its restaurants and hotels that offer hospitality imbued with luxury without ostentation.

Milan never stops. It's a city that even in the most critical circumstances knows how to shape its future and imagine itself among the most interesting destinations, not only for tourism but also for business, fashion, culture and tourism.

Once it was a city primarily tied to work: serious, rigorous and not very inclined to entertainment, foggy in the winter months.

Today, it is vibrant and dynamic, shedding its austerity to offer the pleasures of gourmet cuisine, culture, shopping and the rediscovery of its architecture and traditions. Fashion and design, of course,

**DRINKS, PLEASE**

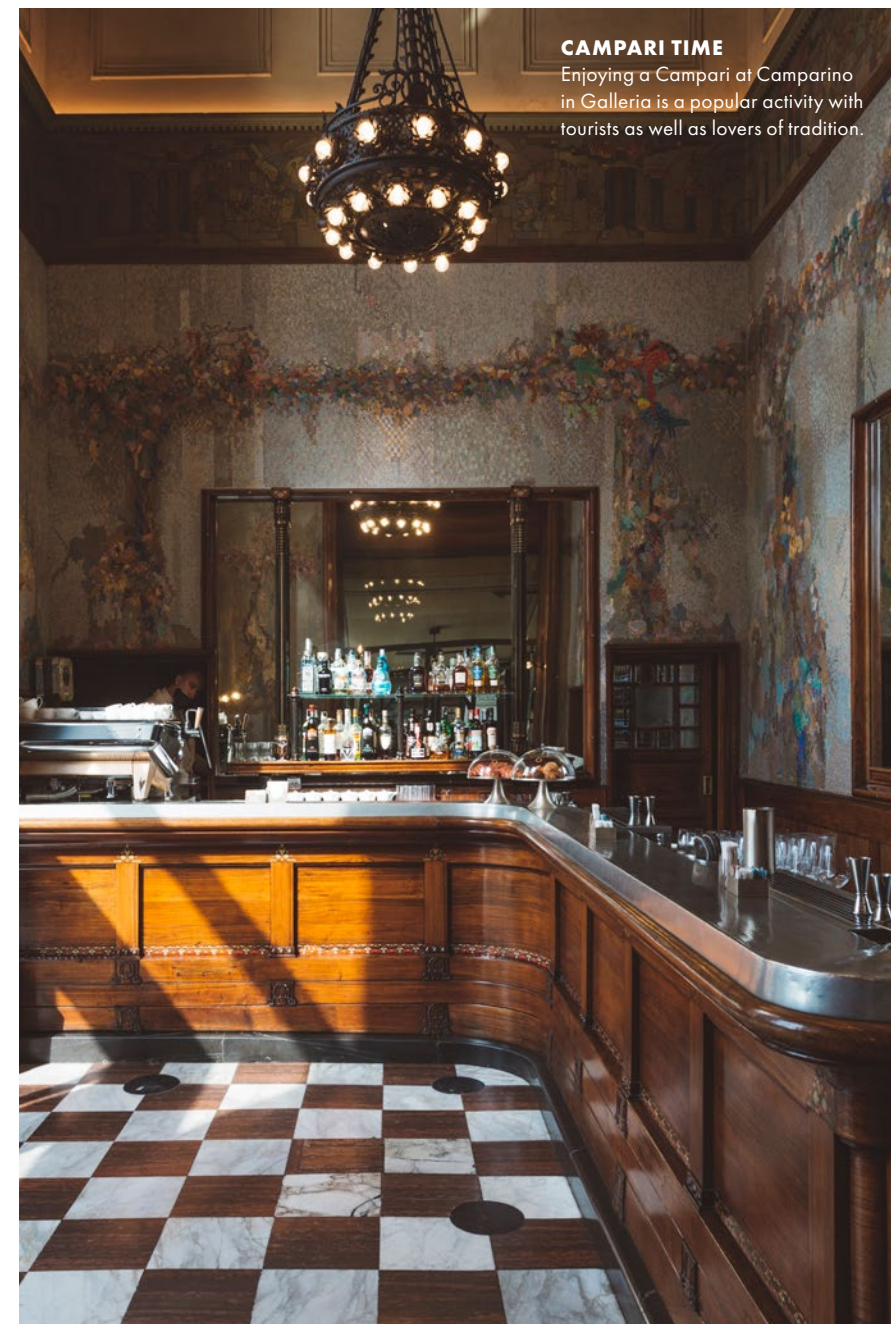
**Camparino in Galleria**

The history of Camparino begins in 1867 when Gaspare Campari, the inventor of the eponymous bitter, opened Caffè Campari in the newly completed Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Davide – Gaspare's son – later opened Camparino, the younger sibling of Caffè Campari, in 1915. A distinctive feature of the venue is its innovative supply system of carbonated water, ensuring a continuous flow directly from the cellars for a perfectly chilled Campari soda. The Liberty-style interiors were created by renowned artisans. The Sala Spiritello is a temple of the new mixology overhanging the Galleria, as well as an elegant guardian to the original Leonetto Cappiello Spiritello masterpiece. Camparino is the ideal place to enjoy the perfect serve of iconic cocktails such as the Campari Seltz, Negroni and Shakerato. Recognised for its excellence in mixology and hospitality, its menu includes breakfast, lunch, aperitivo and dinner. *Piazza Duomo, 21-20121, Milan camparino.com*



**CAMPARI TIME**

Enjoying a Campari at Camparino in Galleria is a popular activity with tourists as well as lovers of tradition.



**BEST BARS IN MILAN**

**Bar Basso**

A Milan institution famous for its signature Negroni Sbagliato cocktail and retro ambience. Join locals at this iconic spot for classic drinks and lively atmosphere. *barbasso.com*



**Fonderie Milanesi**

Set in a former industrial space, it offers a unique bar experience with creative cocktails, art installations and live music. Embrace the eclectic vibe. *fonderiemilanesi.it*



**N'Ombra de Vin**

This cosy wine bar is beloved for its extensive wine selection (more than 2500 labels), delicious small plates, and intimate atmosphere. Perfect for wine enthusiasts. *nombradevin.it*



**Santeria**

This multi-functional space combines a bar, restaurant and cultural venue, attracting a diverse crowd with its eclectic events, innovative cocktails, and fun atmosphere. *santeria.milano.it*



**Radetzky**

A chic café-bar in the heart of Milan's fashion district, Radetzky is favoured by the city's stylish crowd for its trendy ambience, excellent coffee and refreshing aperitivos. *radetzky.it*



**Cantine Isola**

Located in the dynamic Isola district, this laid-back bar offers a selection of craft beers, cocktails and tasty snacks in a relaxed, industrial-chic setting. Ideal for casual drinks. *cantineisola.com/it/*



## NEW STAR

### Portrait Milano

Among the new additions in the city, Portrait Milano has become a cult destination for its exceptional location steps away from the fashion avenues. "This place is a treasure that not all Milanese know about," said Michele De Lucchi, architect and author of the restoration project of the building. A historic seminary has found new life infused with luxury and comfort. The gallery on the first floor has been transformed into a winter garden; rooms and suites, designed by architect Michele Bönan, feel like part of a private residence; while common spaces are blessed with tranquility and silence. On the avant-garde square, there are boutique shops, the Beebar restaurant, and the more casual 10\_11, along with The Longevity Suite dedicated to wellness. *Corso Venezia, 11-20121, Milan*  
[lungarnocollection.com/it/portrait-milano-hotel/](http://lungarnocollection.com/it/portrait-milano-hotel/)



#### ART OF HOSPITALITY

The exquisitely designed Portrait Milano features art books for visitors to peruse, as well as art on its walls (below); Meet friends in the hotel before exploring the city (left).



## HISTORIC VENUE

### Antico Ristorante Boeucc

The Antico Ristorante Boeucc, known to Milanese locals as 'il Boeucc' or 'the hole' – boasts a gastronomic tradition of more than 325 years. Its history dating back to 1696, it was brought into the dining forefront by Paolo Brioschi, who ran it successfully from 1979 to 2004, before passing the torch to his daughter Monica and her husband Marco Fuzier (pictured). Today, the establishment is a landmark for Milanese cuisine, featuring linen tablecloths, silver cutlery, crystal glasses and impeccable service. The Sala delle Colonne, once a stable, is now an elegant dining room. Guests at Ristorante Boeucc can also enjoy the veranda overlooking an inner courtyard and a cosy, refined private dining room. *Piazza Belgioioso, 2-20121, Milan*  
[boeucc.it](http://boeucc.it)

## “Vibrant Milan offers gourmet cuisine, culture, architecture and tradition.”

“Milanese people never invite to lunch,” wrote Stendhal, who lived in Milan for seven years. Perhaps they don’t easily open the doors of their homes, but they certainly love to meet in some of the most refined venues boasting gourmet cuisine.

For example, Il Baretto carries an air of confidentiality in its name, alluding to a place where one feels comfortable, and can easily becoming a regular, thanks also to its delightful garden. Lombardian

specialties abound, from breaded cutlets to osso buco, but the menu also features fish, with the lobster catalana a standout.

Business lunches and family gatherings often take place against the backdrop of the historic establishment Il Boeucc, which boasts a 325-year history. Before moving to the splendid Palazzo Belgioioso, it was a small tavern; today it displays its elegance in the Sala delle Colonne, once the stable of the noble residence. It had illustrious





**TRADITION MEETS TASTE**  
You must try the tagliatelle alla bolognese at Dal Bolognese (top); Palazzo Recalcati and its courtyard house the restaurant, which is close to the Duomo (above); The interior is both family friendly and refined (left).

**RETAIL THERAPY**

**Lorenzi Milano**  
It's a delight for the eyes to step into this historic shop, where everything is displayed with extreme care. Everyday objects, even the most mundane ones, become special: garment brushes tailored to individual materials from cashmere to tweed, shoe-care travel sets, kitchen utensils, plus knives of all sizes for specific uses. It almost feels like a museum that celebrates a rare refinement in its precious showcases.  
Piazza Filippo Meda, 3-20121, Milan  
lorenzi-milano.com



**OBJECTS OF BEAUTY**  
Everything from grooming products and tableware to knives have been transformed into something special for sale at Lorenzi Milano.



**DINING PALACE**

**Dal Bolognese**

The keyword at Dal Bolognese is tradition. The restaurant was born in Rome in 1960 and opened its doors in Milan in 2005. The menu offers traditional recipes of the most representative dishes of Emilian cuisine, including tagliatelle alla bolognese and a cart of boiled meats. The service is attentive and always friendly. Housed within Palazzo Recalcati, with a magnificent internal courtyard, it welcomes Milanese locals and tourists alike with its savoir-faire.  
Via Amedei, 8-20123, Milan  
milano.dalbolognese.it

customers including Giuseppe Verdi and Arturo Toscanini, and a similarly famous neighbour like novelist Alessandro Manzoni, whose house-museum overlooks the square named after the palace.

What are the strengths of the Milanese culinary tradition? Solidly tied to the territory, its cuisine is practical, offering breaded meat or long-cooked dishes, risotto in all variations, fresh and aged cheeses, and sweets (aside from the inevitable Christmas panettone).

Al Mercante, a stone's throw from the Duomo, has been ranked among the most romantic restaurants in Milan and is also

praised for its Milanese fare. Dal Bolognese provides a precise clue in its name: family cuisine representing one of the regions, Emilia, among the most delicious in Italy, within the walls of Palazzo Recalcati.

The Four Seasons Hotel found its home, when it settled in the city, in a former 15th-century convent. Today it has a new look courtesy of Spanish designer and architect Patricia Urquiola, who renovated both the Zelo Restaurant and the Stilla Bar, while landscape architect Flavio Pollano made the cloister garden even more attractive ... all waiting to be discovered beyond the austere façade.

**MILAN'S BEST SHOPPING STREETS**



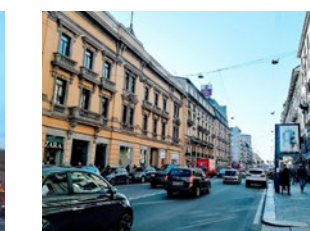
**Corso di Porta Ticinese**  
A vibrant street in Milan's Navigli district, it is lined with trendy boutiques, vintage shops and cosy cafes. It is perfect for fashionistas seeking unique finds with a bohemian flair.



**Via Montenapoleone**  
Milan's most prestigious shopping destination, it is home to luxury fashion boutiques from renowned designers. Enjoy haute couture, fine jewellery and upscale accessories along this iconic street.



**Corso Vittorio Emanuele II**  
Connecting Piazza del Duomo with Piazza San Babila, this bustling avenue features a mix of high-end retailers, department stores and popular brands. Ideal for a day of indulgent shopping.



**Corso Buenos Aires**  
One of Europe's busiest shopping streets, it boasts a wide array of fashion, accessories and homeware stores. Explore both international chains and local boutiques along this bustling thoroughfare.

LUXURY HOTELS IN MILAN



**Mandarin Oriental Milan**

This hotel blends Italian elegance with Asian charm. Indulge in Michelin-starred dining and pampering spa treatments. [mandarinoriental.com/milan](http://mandarinoriental.com/milan)



**Avani Palazzo Moscova Milan**

This sophisticated retreat offers impeccable service, refined rooms and is a great HQ from which to explore the city. [nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-milano-palazzo-moscova](http://nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-milano-palazzo-moscova)



**Park Hyatt Milan**

Experience refined luxury in the heart of Milan. This five-star hotel boasts elegant rooms, a tranquil spa and exceptional dining options, all within steps of iconic attractions. [milan.park.hyatt.com](http://milan.park.hyatt.com)



**Senato Hotel Milano**

Housed in a converted 19th-century residence, Senato Hotel offers contemporary elegance and bespoke service. Enjoy a prime location near Milan's landmarks. [senatohotelmilano.com](http://senatohotelmilano.com)



**Palazzo Segreti**

Nestled in a historic building, this boutique hotel offers an intimate retreat with stylish rooms and personalised service. Explore Milan's treasures from this central location. [palazzosegreti.com](http://palazzosegreti.com)



**Hotel Manzoni**

With its sophisticated ambiance and impeccable service, Manzoni is a haven of comfort in Milan. Discover modern Italian style and hospitality in this boutique gem. [hotelmanzoni.com](http://hotelmanzoni.com)



PLAN YOUR STAY

**Four Seasons Hotel Milano**

A classic recently revitalised with frescoes and contemporary touches. It has an outdoor cloister and, beneath the historic vaults of what was once a convent, a spa open to both guests and non-guests alike. This well-known establishment carries the allure of a hidden gem, offering glimpses of the spires of the Duomo, with the famous Madonna perched on the highest spire. *Via Gesù, 6/8-20121, Milan* [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

Stroll along the landscaped courtyard at Four Seasons Hotel Milano (left); Wander the grounds (below); The lap pool and iconic Fashion Suite (bottom).



**YES, CHEF**

Chef *Ciro Sequino* will whip you up something special at *Il Baretto Milano* (right); The venue has the feel of an English members' club (below right); Enjoy your meal in the garden (below); Many famous people have visited its tables.



CULINARY ICON

**Il Baretto Milano**

A setting characterised by British influences and Milanese heritage seamlessly merges in one of the city centre's most celebrated restaurants. It is reminiscent of yesteryear, combining tartan carpeting and dark wood panelling with windows overlooking the green outdoor seating area, away from the traffic noise. Milanese locals, big names and tourists alike gather to savour dishes crafted by chef *Ciro Sequino*, who delights in surprising diners with a range of offerings from seafood to the more traditional *cotoletta*. *Via Della Spiga, 26-20121, Milan* [ilbarettomilano.it](http://ilbarettomilano.it)

That Milan avoids ostentation is also evident from the secrecy of certain places that don't face the most famous streets with flashy shop windows and entrances, but beg to be discovered.

This is the case with the new *Portrait Milano*. Part of *The Leading Hotels of the World* collection, it overlooks the magnificent cloister of what was once the *Archbishop's Seminary*, a masterpiece of 16th-century Baroque. The sophisticated hotel offers gourmet experiences, wellness and the discovery of a secret garden.

Before sitting down to eat, you must enjoy an aperitivo or chilled *Campari Seltz* at *Camparino* in *Galleria*, overlooking the

*Duomo*. With origins dating back to 1867 (in 1860, *Gaspare Campari* invented the striking red aperitif), it has maintained its status as an iconic place. Today it is a modern, daring blend of iconic history and contemporary verve, ranked among the world's top 50 bars and a great place to dine or have a drink.

Finally, there is a place that everyone knows: *Lorenzi Milano*. This shop has managed to enhance ordinary objects, whether it be a knife, corkscrew, travel set or shaving brush, into expressions of the highest craftsmanship. *Horn, bamboo, mother-of-pearl* and wood embellish items of daily life and give them a special value.

LIVING INSIDE