

MUST VISIT IN MILAN

A curated selection for experiencing Milan authentically.
A deliberately thoughtful choice of lesser-known places with distinctive character.
The obvious landmarks are intentionally left out — everyone already knows those.

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ARTE, DESIGN & CULTURA

FONDAZIONE PRADA

Largo Isarco 2 — Porta Romana

One of Europe's most significant cultural foundations — a complex of industrial buildings and new architecture designed by Rem Koolhaas, with an ambitious program of contemporary art, cinema and philosophy. The permanent collection includes important works by Baldessari, Barney and Koons; temporary exhibitions are always high-profile. Bar Luce, designed by Wes Anderson, is worth visiting on its own. Open every day.

PIRELLI HANGAR BICOCCA

Via Chiesa 2 — Bicocca

An exceptional-scale former industrial space, now one of Italy's most important contemporary art venues. The permanent installation — *I Sette Palazzi Celesti* by Anselm Kiefer — fills the nave with seven concrete towers. International-calibre temporary exhibitions. Free admission. Thursday–Sunday; closed Monday–Wednesday.

TRIENNALE DI MILANO

Viale Emilio Alemagna 6 — Sempione

The historic institution dedicated to design, architecture and contemporary culture, in the Palazzo dell'Arte in Parco Sempione. The permanent collection covers Italian design history; the temporary program ranges from exhibitions, talks and installations. The café and garden — with the *Bagni Misteriosi* by De Chirico — are reasons to visit even between exhibitions. Open every day from 10:30 AM.

FONDAZIONE LUIGI ROVATI

Corso Venezia 52 — Porta Venezia

A private foundation housed in a meticulously restored 19th-century palazzo on Corso Venezia, with an extraordinary underground gallery designed by Mario Cucinella. The collection is centred on Etruscan civilization in dialogue with modern and contemporary art — an unusual and well-executed curatorial premise. The building alone justifies the visit. Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.

PAC — PADIGLIONE D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA

Via Palestro 14 — Porta Venezia

A contemporary art space near the Public Gardens, with a well-curated program of international exhibitions in a clean modernist building.

Less crowded than major institutions, making it easier to really see the works.

Thursday evenings until 10:30 PM.

Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.

LABORATORI ANSALDO

Via Tortona 54 — Tortona

The production hub of Teatro alla Scala — where sets, costumes and props are handmade — but also a platform for large-scale exhibitions and cultural events. The industrial scale of the space is part of the experience: raw, cavernous and unlike any other place in the city.

CASA TESTORI

Largo Angelo Testori 13 — Novate Milanese

The family home of Giovanni Testori — writer, painter, playwright and one of the great Milanese intellectuals of the twentieth century. Now a cultural foundation, it hosts contemporary art exhibitions alongside a permanent presence of Testori's work. Worth the short trip out of the city.

MUSEO DELLA MACCHINA DA SCRIVERE

Via Luigi Federico Menabrea 10 — Turro

A single-room museum dedicated entirely to typewriters, run by Umberto di Donato with encyclopedic passion. The collection includes machines in Arabic, Chinese and Hebrew, and a typewriter that belonged to Hemingway. Free admission, limited opening — the kind of place that exists only because someone took care to build it.

MUSEO MARTINITT E STELLINE

Corso Magenta 57 — Magenta

A museum dedicated to the history of Milan's two most famous orphanages, which shaped generations of the city's working class — Angelo Rizzoli among them. Multimedia installations on two floors, free admission, and a story that most Milanese don't know enough about.

CASA MUSEO BOSCHI DI STEFANO

Via Giorgio Jan 15 — Porta Venezia

Over three hundred works of twentieth-century Italian art — Fontana, Sironi, De Chirico, Morandi — preserved in the apartment where they were collected, in a building designed by Piero Portaluppi. Free admission, guided tours by volunteers, and one of the most rewarding visits in the city.

VILLA NECCHI CAMPIGLIO

Via Mozart 14 — Porta Venezia

A rationalist villa designed by Piero Portaluppi between 1932 and 1935 for a wealthy Milanese industrial family, now managed by FAI. Garden, pool, tennis court, original furnishings intact. Used by Luca Guadagnino as the main location for *Io sono l'amore* — the atmosphere on screen is barely amplified compared to reality.

MUSEO POLDI PEZZOLI

Via Manzoni 12 — Montenapoleone

One of Europe's most refined museum-homes. Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli spent his life collecting a collection ranging from Renaissance paintings to armor, tapestries, jewelry and clocks, all in a private nineteenth-century house. Intimate, serious and largely ignored by casual visitors.

MUSEO BAGATTI VALSECCHI

Via Gesù 5 — Quadrilatero

In the 1880s, brothers Fausto and Giuseppe Bagatti Valsecchi built a neo-Renaissance palazzo in the heart of Milan's fashion district and filled it with art, armor, furniture and objects from Italian Renaissance. The result is dense, theatrical and meticulously preserved.

FONDAZIONE ICA MILANO

Via Orobio 26 — Scalo Romana

A contemporary art foundation with a focused and internationally-oriented program. The space is sober, the curatorial line is not. One of the most serious institutional voices in a city that often confuses visibility with quality.

MUSEO DEL NOVECENTO

Piazza del Duomo 8 — Centro

Housed in Palazzo dell'Arengario with a view of the Duomo, the museum collects a fundamental collection of twentieth-century Italian art: Boccioni, Fontana, Morandi, De Chirico and Kandinsky. The view from the upper floors alone justifies the visit.

TEMPIO DEL FUTURO PERDUTO

Via Luigi Nono 9 — Isola

A former industrial building in Isola that functions as a cultural centre, concert hall and club. The programming ranges from experimental music, theatre, markets and club nights. Intermittent but alive — the kind of space that prevents a neighbourhood from becoming purely residential.

ARMANI/SILOS

Via Bergognone 40 — Tortona

A grain silo converted to dedicate four decades of Giorgio Armani's work. Four floors of archive — haute couture, film costumes, editorial looks — curated with the same control that defines the brand. Decidedly brand-driven, but executed at a level that earns it a place as a cultural institution.

FONDAZIONE ACHILLE CASTIGLIONI

Piazza Castello 27 — Cairolì

Achille Castiglioni's studio, preserved exactly as it was — prototypes, reference objects, models and the accumulated material of one of the great minds of twentieth-century design. Tours only, managed by his family. Essential for those seriously interested in Italian design.

ARCHIVIO GAE AULENTI

Piazzale Cadorna — Cadorna

The archive dedicated to Gae Aulenti's work — architect, designer and one of Italy's most important cultural figures of the twentieth century. Specialized and by appointment; not a traditional public museum, but a research resource.

ORTO BOTANICO DI BRERA

Via Brera 28 — Brera

A small botanical garden hidden behind the Pinacoteca di Brera, founded in the eighteenth century and almost invisible to visitors. Free admission, benches, absolute silence. One of the few truly quiet places in central Milan.

PALAZZO CITTERIO

Via Brera 14 — Brera

After a long wait, Palazzo Citterio reopened as a contemporary extension of the Pinacoteca di Brera. The building is notable; the collection is still evolving, but the project is ambitious.

FONDAZIONE STUDIO MUSEO

VICO MAGISTRETTI

Via Vincenzo Bellini 1 — Porta Venezia

Vico Magistretti's preserved studio, a key figure of Milanese design. Open only a few days a week by appointment. Small, intense and very personal.

BIBLIOTECA PINACOTECA AMBROSIANA

Piazza Pio XI 2 — Centro

Founded in 1609 by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, it houses masterpieces such as Leonardo's Codice Atlantico and Raphael's School of Athens cartoon. One of Milan's most important and undervalued cultural institutions.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

MILANESE CUISINE

TRATTORIA MASUELLI SAN MARCO

Viale Umbria 80 — Porta Romana

Open since 1921, one of the oldest family-run trattorias still operating in Milan. The dining room is warm and lived-in in the best sense — dark wood, white tablecloths, bottles lined along the walls. Risotto alla milanese and ossobuco executed with true conviction. Dinner most evenings, lunch Wednesday to Sunday..

TRATTORIA DEL NUOVO MACELLO

Via Cesare Lombroso 20 — Porta Vittoria

Probably Milan's most reliable address for cotoletta alla milanese — consistently well-executed, generous, cooked to order. The rest of the menu maintains the same standard: honest Milanese cuisine without concessions to fashion. Slow Food reference for years. Closed Sunday.

TRATTORIA LAZZATI

Via Antonio Lazzati 6 — Sempione

A small neighborhood trattoria that managed to remain genuinely local in a part of the city that didn't always succeed there. Dinner only Tuesday–Saturday, Sunday lunch. The atmosphere is as important as the food — unhurried, informal, the kind of place that fills up with regulars.

TRATTORIA ARLATI

Via Alberto Nota 47 — Bicocca

Operating since 1936, Arlati is one of Milan's most characterful dining rooms — walls dense with paintings, objects, and the accumulated personality of decades. The cuisine matches the environment: ossobuco, risotto, tartare, all done properly. Worth the trip north. Closed Saturday lunch and Sunday.

AL MATAREL

Via Laura Solera Mantegazza 5 — Moscova

A small family-run osteria near the Arco della Pace that hasn't practically changed over the years. Polenta with gorgonzola and cotoletta are the things to order. No frills, no trends — just well-selected ingredients cooked with care. Closed Tuesday.

DA MARTINO

Via Carlo Farini 8 — Isola

A family-run osteria in Isola — husband and wife in a narrow, characterful room — with a menu that revolves around Milanese classics and what's good that day. Elephant ear is the signature. Dinner Tuesday–Friday only, weekend lunch and dinner. Closed Monday. Book ahead.

TRATTORIA MADONNINA

Via Gentilino 6 — Porta Ticinese

Lively, crowded and unpretentious — one of Milan's most vibrant dining rooms. Risotto alla milanese with luganega is extraordinary. Service is brisk, tables are close together, and that's better. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

ANTICA TRATTORIA DELLA PESA

Viale Pasubio 10 — Porta Garibaldi

Open since 1880, one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants in the city. Monogrammed linens, service with silver trays, career waiters for years — the room carries its history without showing it off. Cotoletta and risotto are a point of reference. Closed Sunday.

RATANÀ

Via Gaetano de Castillia 28 — Isola

Modern Lombard cuisine with a clear, rooted identity. Seasonal ingredients, clean technique, and respectful reinterpretation of traditional Milanese dishes. One of the city's most solid contemporary references.

ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

AL MERCANTE

Via Cesare Cantù 7 — Duomo

A well-run restaurant in the Five Ways area, steps from the Duomo. The menu covers Italian classics — pasta, risotto, grilled meat — executed with care and without excesses.

Warm room, attentive service, reliable wine list.

A solid choice in a part of the city where options are often crowded or too touristy.

Closed Sunday.

CANTINA PIEMONTESE

Via Laghetto 2 — Duomo

A true Piedmontese restaurant in the heart of Milan, with garden and a cellar that takes its region seriously. Vitello tonnato, anchovies, tajarin, braised beef with Barolo — the classics done properly and without shortcuts. One of the most substantial addresses near the Duomo.

Open daily for lunch and dinner.

TRATTORIA TRIPPA

Via Giorgio Vasari 1 — Porta Romana

One of the most talked-about restaurants in Milan in recent years — and one of the few that deserves it. Diego Rossi's cuisine is rooted in Italian tradition and built around offal cuts, seasonal products, and unfashionable ingredients treated with true competence. Reservations open on the first of each month and sell out in minutes.

Dinner Monday–Thursday, lunch and dinner Friday.

Closed weekends.

LOCANDA PERBELLINI

Via della Moscova 25 — Brera

Giancarlo Perbellini's Milan outpost, the Veronese chef with two Michelin stars. The bistro format here is deliberately more accessible than the main restaurant — concentrated menu, warm room, precise cuisine without being cold. Risotto with saffron and cotoletta are the fixed points.

Closed Monday and Sunday.

FIORAIO BIANCHI CAFFÈ

Via Montebello 7 — Brera

A former flower shop turned café and all-day restaurant, still dense with plants, vintage objects, and the particular atmosphere of a place that was accumulated rather than designed. Breakfast, light lunch, dinner — the cuisine is simple and honest. One of the city's most genuinely atmospheric dining rooms. Closed Sunday.

NINO OSTERIA CON CUCINA

Via Nino Bixio 47 — Porta Venezia

A contemporary osteria with a strong visual identity — marble counters, open kitchen, noteworthy playlist. The menu changes regularly around Italian ingredients treated with more precision than the informal setting might suggest. Dinner only Monday–Friday, lunch and dinner Saturday. Closed Sunday. Book ahead.

RISTORANTI DI PESCE

LANGOSTERIA BISTROT

Via Privata Bobbio 2 — Navigli

The most accessible format in the Langosteria

group — same commitment to fish quality, slightly less formal than the flagship. Raw fish, grilled catch, seafood pasta: execution is clean and consistent, the room refined and international in tone. One of the city's most appreciated fish addresses. Open daily for lunch and dinner..
Aperto tutti i giorni a pranzo e cena.

AL PORTO

Piazzale Antonio Cantore 13 — Darsena

A Milanese institution in fish cuisine, operating near the Darsena for decades. The room is quiet and maritime, old-school service in the best sense, impeccably fresh fish. Grilled halibut, plate of raw fish, seafood pasta — nothing elaborate, nothing superfluous. Closed Sunday and Monday for lunch.

TRATTORIA DEL PESCATORE

Via Atto Vannucci 5 — Porta Romana

A well-established fish trattoria that has attracted a loyal clientele for years. Pasta with lobster and the plate of raw fish simply dressed with olive oil are the things to order. No frills, honest product, a room that fills up quickly. Strongly recommended reservation for dinner. Closed Monday and Sunday.

A'RICCIONE BISTROT

Via Giulio Cesare Procaccini 28 — Sempione

A well-cared-for and elegant fish restaurant in Sempione, with strong attention to freshness and a menu that oscillates between classic and contemporary without losing balance. The raw bar is excellent, the wine list serious. Prices reflect quality. Closed Monday; dinner only on Saturday.

GRILL & CARNE

EL PORTEÑO GOURMET

Via Speronari 4 — Duomo

Our internal Argentine parrilla, inside Speronari Suites. The room has warmth and energy that distinguish it from most restaurants in the area — genuinely South American in spirit, with a traditional grill at its center. The meat is well-selected and cooked with care; empanadas and dulce de leche are must-haves. Available for guests for lunch and dinner daily; dinner only in July and August.

RIBOT

Via Marco Cremosano 41 — San Siro

A destination steakhouse in the classic Milanese sense — T-bone, Fiorentina, onion soup, garden for summer lunches. The kind of place that does the same thing well for a long time and has no reason to change. Worth the trip to San Siro.
Open daily for lunch and dinner.

BEEFBAR MILANO

Corso Venezia 11 — Porta Venezia

The Milan outpost of the international Beefbar concept, in a refined room on one of the city's most elegant streets. The format mixes premium cuts with more playful options — Kobe carbonara, fried truffle, beef taco — for a cosmopolitan clientele that wants quality without formality.
Open daily for lunch and dinner.

INTERNATIONAL CUSINE

IYO

Via Piero della Francesca 74 — Sempione

The first Japanese restaurant in Italy to receive a Michelin star, and still the reference for fine Japanese cuisine in Milan. Chef Claudio Liu's tasting menu traverses raw preparations, nigiri, and cooked courses with precision and consistency. The room is elegant and discreet; service matches it. Dinner only Monday and Tuesday, lunch and dinner Wednesday–Sunday.

YOSHINOBU

Via Galileo Galilei 5 — Centro

A small, discreet Japanese restaurant run by a sushi master with an exceptionally sharp eye for fish. Counter seats are the ones to request — watching the preparation is part of the experience. Authentic and without ostentation, with a sake list to explore. Marinated black cod in miso is a must-try. Closed Sunday; dinner only on Saturday.

BA RESTAURANT

Via Raffaello Sanzio 22 — De Angeli

Milan's most serious Chinese restaurant — a refined, well-designed room with a kitchen that draws on Sichuan and Cantonese traditions with

true depth. Sichuan eggplant, wontons in chili oil, and dim sum are exceptional. The tasting menu is the best way for a first visit. Dinner only on Monday; lunch and dinner Tuesday–Sunday.

BON WEI

Via Lodovico Castelvetro 16 — Sempione

A focused, regionally-rooted Chinese restaurant that takes its cuisine seriously.

The menu navigates different Chinese culinary traditions without confusing them — a rarity in Milan. Reliable and consistent, with a room that attracts an demanding local clientele.

Closed Monday.

GONG ORIENTAL ATTITUDE

Corso Concordia 8 — Porta Venezia

A high-level pan-Asian restaurant with one of the city's most refined rooms.

The menu ranges from wagyu, Peking duck, black cod, dim sum, and lobster hand-pulled pasta — executed at a level that justifies the prices. Attentive service, excellent wine list.

Dinner only on Tuesday; lunch and dinner Wednesday–Sunday. Closed Monday.

PACIFICO

Via della Moscova 29 — Brera

A lively, well-designed restaurant centered on contemporary Latin American cuisine with strong Peruvian influence. Ceviche, tiradito, pisco sour — the flavors are decisive and the atmosphere is social and lively.

More focused on identity and consistency than fine cuisine, but executed with clarity. The city's best ceviche according to most opinions.

WICKY'S INNOVATIVE JAPANESE CUISINE

Corso Italia 6 — Duomo

Chef Wicky Priyan's personal vision of Japanese cuisine — precise, visually surprising, and influenced by his Sri Lankan roots. The omakase format is the one to choose.

Dinner only on Monday and Saturday; lunch and dinner Tuesday–Friday. Closed Sunday.

MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANTS

ENRICO BARTOLINI AL MUDEC

Via Tortona 56 — Tortona

Milan's only three-Michelin-star restaurant, inside the Mudec museum complex. Bartolini's cuisine is technically rigorous and deeply Italian in its references — tradition reinterpreted with precision and a sure contemporary lens. Service is formal without being cold, the wine list exceptional. A point of reference for the city's gastronomic ambition. Closed Monday and Sunday.

ANDREA APREA

Corso Venezia 52 — Porta Venezia

A two-Michelin-star restaurant that brings Aprea's Neapolitan roots into a fine dining format decidedly Milanese. The menu is structured, precise, and composed — clear flavors, great attention to ingredient and technique, a tasting format that builds logically from sea to land. The room is elegant and spacious, with open kitchen. Dinner only Tuesday–Friday; lunch and dinner Saturday. Closed Monday and Sunday.

VERSO — CAPITANEO

Piazza del Duomo 21, secondo piano — Centro

A contemporary fine dining restaurant on the second floor above Piazza del Duomo, with a kitchen led by chef Marco Capitanéo. The cuisine is experimental in spirit but disciplined in execution — theatrical presentations anchored by precise, well-balanced flavors. Open kitchen is part of the experience. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

BERTON

Via Mike Bongiorno 13 — Porta Nuova

One Michelin star. Andrea Berton's cuisine is built around clarity and restraint — every dish reduced to its essential elements, with broths and consommés as a recurring signature. The result is a cuisine where simplicity is the product of discipline rather than limitation. The room is modern and sober, in line with the food. Dinner only on Tuesday; lunch and dinner Wednesday–Saturday. Closed Monday and Sunday.

IL LUOGO DI AIMO E NADIA

Via Privata R. Montecuccoli 6 — Bande Nere

Two Michelin stars and one of Italy's most enduring culinary institutions. Founded by Aimo and Nadia Moroni, the restaurant has always placed ingredients and regional tradition at its center — not as a pretext, but as genuine philosophy. The cuisine is refined without being austere, precise without being cold. A coherent and deeply felt vision of Italian gastronomy, now carried forward by a new generation. Dinner only, every day except Sunday.

VEGETARIAN RESTAURANTS

REMULASS

Via Nino Bixio 21 — Porta Venezia

Featured in the Michelin Guide, Remulass is one of the most distinctive addresses in Milan's gastronomic scene. The cuisine revolves around the vegetable world, treated with technique and rigor: simple ingredients transformed into precise, satisfying dishes, never predictable. Some forays into fish, a seasonal menu that changes regularly. Natural wine list. Intimate setting, direct and competent service. Closed Monday and Sunday — reservation recommended.

JOIA

Via Panfilo Castaldi 18 — Porta Venezia

The city's reference for high-level vegetarian cuisine. A Michelin star since 1996 — the first starred vegetarian restaurant in Europe — Joia is an institution that has never stopped evolving. An elaborate tasting menu, elegant room, attentive service. For those who want to understand what vegetable cuisine can become when treated with the seriousness of great gastronomy. Closed Monday and Sunday — reservation recommended.

HORTO

Via San Protaso 5 (Rooftop The Medelan) — Duomo

A forward-thinking restaurant guided by the philosophy of "Ora Etica" (Ethical Hour), Horto serves sustainable cuisine built around seasonal ingredients sourced within a 90 km radius of

Milan. While not exclusively vegetarian, the menu also features locally sourced meat and fish, with vegetables taking center stage throughout the dining experience. Set on a spectacular rooftop overlooking the city's historic skyline, Horto is celebrated for combining fine dining with a strong commitment to sustainability. Prices reflect the outstanding quality of the ingredients and the sophistication of the cuisine, while the exceptional setting makes it one of Milan's most memorable dining destinations. Closed on Sunday.

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

EL PORTEÑO PROHIBIDO

Via Macedonio Melloni 9 — Porta Venezia

An Argentine dinner-show where the show is central as much as the food. Tango, live music, and theatrical mise en scène run through the entire evening, creating an immersive and genuinely engaging atmosphere. The meat is well-selected and cooked with care — the experience takes the food seriously, even if the show steals the spotlight. On some selected evenings, a DJ set follows the live performance. Dinner only, Tuesday–Sunday. Closed Monday.

PANINERIES & PIZZERIAS

BAR QUADRONNO

Via Quadronno 34 — Crocetta

A Milanese institution for sandwiches, open from early morning until late. The neighborhood is quietly residential and of good standing, loyal and local clientele, an atmosphere completely unpretentious. Sandwiches are well-made and substantial; wine and cocktails are taken seriously. One of those places that never needed to reinvent itself. Open daily.

DE SANTIS

Corso Magenta 9 — Magenta

An established reference for sandwiches in the heart of Milan, known for precise execution and high-quality ingredients — bresaola, brie, seasonal vegetables, well-selected cured meats. The setting

is composed and unhurried, a step above informal sandwich bars without pretending to be something more. A reliable choice for a properly done lunch. Open daily from 11:00 AM.

CONFINE PIZZA E CANTINA

Piazza Cardinal Massaia — Sempione

A contemporary pizzeria with a serious approach to dough, fermentation, and toppings — the kind of place that treats pizza as a vehicle for real cuisine rather than as informal backup.

The tasting format is the way to experience it fully. Good wine list.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday; closed the rest of the week.

CROSTA

Via Melzo 5 — Porta Venezia

Part bakery, part pizzeria — a technically-oriented project where the dough is the starting point for everything. Bread is excellent; pizza follows the same logic. Compact, modern, and consistent. Dinner only, daily.

BIGA MILANO

Via Antonio Pollaiuolo 9 — Isola

A young, energetic pizzeria in Isola with a multi-award reputation and a menu that covers both classics and the most creative combinations.

The dough is long-fermented and well-executed; the atmosphere is relaxed and lively.

A reliable address for pizza at a high level without formality.

Open for lunch and dinner daily.

PASTICCERIE & COLAZIONI

BASTIANELLO

Via Borgogna 5 — Centro

A well-cared-for, well-maintained café steps from Via Montenapoleone, with an atmosphere slightly quieter than the more famous institutions nearby.

Pastries, coffee, sandwiches — all executed correctly. A good choice for a relaxed morning before diving into the fashion district.

Open daily from 7:30 AM.

COVA

Via Monte Napoleone 8 — Quadrilatero

Founded in 1817 and one of Milan's oldest cafés, Cova occupies a privileged position in the heart of the fashion district. The room is formal and splendidly maintained; tiramisù is consistently cited among the city's best.

More than novelty, it's about heritage and atmosphere — and fully aware of it. Open daily.

TAVEGGIA 1909

Via Uberto Visconti di Modrone 2 — Centro

A classic Milanese pastry shop with old-time charm and a loyal neighborhood clientele. The interior is warm and unhurried — a real place to sit down with an espresso and pastry without feeling rushed.

Solid and reliable in a part of the city that can seem transient. Closed Sunday.

PASTICCERIA GATTULLO

Piazzale di Porta Lodovica 2 — Bocconi

A crowded, beloved pastry shop near Porta Lodovica with a wide selection of pastries, sandwiches, and coffee. The atmosphere is informal and genuinely local — no concessions to tourism. A reliable reference for a simple, well-made breakfast or a stop at any time of day. Closed Monday.

PASTICCERIA BIFFI

Corso Magenta 87 — Magenta

A historic café on one of Milan's most elegant residential streets, with a classic interior and loyal local clientele. Pastries and coffee well-made; the atmosphere is that of a neighborhood institution rather than a destination. Open daily from 7:00 AM.

PASTICCERIA MARCHESI 1824

Via Santa Maria alla Porta 11 — Centro

The original location of one of Milan's most celebrated pastry shops, founded in 1824.

The aesthetics are impeccable — soft greens, immaculate display cases, a room changed very little over the decades. Sweets are refined and precisely made. A point of reference for classic Milanese confectionery in its most refined form. Open daily from 7:30 AM.

PASTICCERIA SISSI

Piazza Risorgimento 6 — Porta Venezia

A neighborhood pastry shop with a small garden terrace and a solid reputation for its brioche and cream cakes. The approach is more contemporary than most historic institutions, with attention to precision and freshness. Worth arriving early — the best sweets go fast.

Closed Tuesday; morning only on Monday.

PASTICCERIA CUCCHI

Corso Genova 1 — Ticinese

One of the most characterful pasticcerie in Milan, open since 1936 and unchanged in spirit. The interior is warm and lived-in, the coffee excellent, the pastries honest and well-made. A genuine neighbourhood institution that has resisted the pressure to modernise. Open every day from 7:30 AM.

CONFETTERIA ROMANENGO 1780

Via Caminadella 23 — Cinque Vie

The Milan outpost of the Genoese confectionery house founded in 1780 — one of the oldest in Italy. The focus is on traditional sweets, candied fruits, sugar-coated almonds and artisanal chocolates, all made according to historical methods. Hidden in a courtyard, it feels like a place apart. Closed Monday and Sunday.

GIOVANNI GALLI

Via Victor Hugo 2 — Duomo

A small artisan chocolate and confectionery shop near the Duomo, known especially for marron glacé — candied chestnuts made in-house with a precision that has won a devoted following. Ice cream is excellent and largely ignored by the crowds queuing at more visible spots nearby. Open daily; Sunday until 1:30 PM.

ICE CREAM

GELATERIA UMBERTO 1934

Piazza Cinque Giornate 4 — Porta Vittoria

Open since 1934, one of Milan's most substantial gelaterias. Pistachio is the point of reference — a deep, natural flavor made without colorants or

artificial pastes that has won a devoted following over the decades. Affogato is also highly appreciated. Small room, a queue that moves fast, and a product that deserves it every time. Open daily from noon.

IL MASSIMO DEL GELATO

Via Lodovico Castelvetro 18 — Cenisio

One of Milan's most technically refined gelaterias, with an unusually wide range of flavors executed with constant precision. The chocolate selection is a particular strength. A destination address that attracts a loyal audience until evening. Closed Monday..

TERRA GELATO

Via Vitruvio 38 — Centrale

A contemporary gelateria with a clear focus on natural ingredients, clean flavors, and seasonal products. The range includes sorbets and vegan options alongside classics; salted pistachio and black sesame are the strengths. Open late daily — a reliable option for a dessert after dinner near Centrale. From noon Monday–Friday, from 11 AM on weekends.

WINE BAR

BAR PARADISO

Via Gerolamo Tiraboschi 4 — Porta Romana

A natural wine bar with a clear identity and cellar of over 500 labels, run by two friends from Marche and Sicily. The small plates — cured meats, focaccia, anchovy butter — are well-executed and honest. The audience is knowledgeable and the atmosphere intimate. A destination address for those who take natural wine seriously. Dinner only, Tuesday–Sunday. Closed Sunday.

I DILETTANTI

Via San Marco 34 — Brera

A small wine bar in Brera run with warmth, with a selection oriented toward prestige labels by the glass and an owner genuinely involved in guiding guests through the list. The atmosphere is unpretentious and welcoming — closer in spirit to a classic Milanese wine shop than to a trendy bar.

Evening only, Monday–Saturday. Closed Sunday.

ENOTECA COTTI

Via Solferino 42 — Brera

Open since the early 1900s, Cotti is one of Milan's most serious wine addresses — shop and bar combined, organized by region, with staff who know what they're talking about. The selection is deep and honestly priced; the atmosphere is that of a place where wine has always come first. Open daily from 10 AM..

REMEDY WINE & SPIRITS

Via Giovanni Morelli 26 — Porta Venezia

A refined, intimate wine and spirits bar near Porta Venezia, with a curated cellar, dim lighting, and the feel of a London townhouse transposed to Milan. The wine list is exceptional, the cigar room an unusual addition. One of the city's best addresses for a slower, more meditated evening with serious bottles.

Evening only, Monday–Saturday. Closed Sunday.

CANTINE ISOLA

Via Paolo Sarpi 30 — Chinatown

Open since 1896, one of Milan's oldest wine institutions. The format is unchanged — bottles from floor to ceiling, wines by the glass served at the counter, staff who take their time with every customer. Saturday night fills up with a genuinely mixed audience. A point of reference for what a Milanese wine shop should be.

Open daily from 10 AM.

COCKTAIL BAR

MOEBIUS

Via Alfredo Cappellini 25 — Porta Venezia

One of Milan's most ambitious bar projects — and one of the most recognized internationally, consistently ranked among the world's best bars. In a former textile factory, the space combines a serious cocktail bar, a bistro with shareable plates, a Michelin-starred restaurant, a vinyl shop, and live jazz programming. Cocktails are the anchor: precise, creative, built around a coherent aesthetic. An entire evening in one address.

Open daily from 6 PM.

RITA & COCKTAILS

Via Angelo Fumagalli 1 — Navigli

One of Milan's most consistently appreciated cocktail bars — a small, lively room at the Navigli where drinks are creative and made with care without being theatrical. The bartenders know their craft and the atmosphere is social without being oppressive. A reliable address at any time of the evening. Open daily from late afternoon.

FLORES CÓCTELES

Viale Elvezia 4 — Sempione

A refined cocktail bar with curated design near the Arena, with a strong visual identity and a social, energetic atmosphere. Cocktails are well-executed and the setting is among the most photogenic in the city. Evening only, daily from 7:30 PM.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Viale Piave 1 — Porta Venezia

A Milanese institution and one of the country's most creative bars. The approach is openly theatrical — unusual techniques, unexpected ingredients, presentations that are part of the drink itself. The atmosphere is lively and slightly chaotic, but the underlying craft is serious. An experience more than a bar.

Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.

THE SPIRIT

Via Piacenza 15 — Porta Romana

A quiet cocktail bar with art deco inflection, with a slight Japanese sensibility and attention to clean, well-balanced drinks rather than spectacle. The room is intimate and softly lit — better suited to a meditated after-dinner than to a noisy evening. Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday..

LÙBAR

Via Palestro 16 — Porta Venezia

A bar and restaurant inside a greenhouse in Villa Reale's gardens — one of Milan's most scenic settings. The food and coffee are solid; cocktails are secondary to the atmosphere. A good choice for a morning or afternoon stop, or for an aperitivo when the garden is at its best. Open daily.

CERESIO 7

Via Ceresio 7 — Sempione

A bar and restaurant on the roof at the seventh floor of the ENEL building, with two pools, skyline views, and an decidedly international atmosphere. The kitchen is genuinely good — the tasting menu and tartare in particular stand out — making it a dinner destination as much as for aperitivo.

Always crowded; book ahead.

Open daily for lunch and dinner.

MANDARIN GARDEN

Via Andegari 9 — Centro

The bar and garden of the Mandarin Oriental Milan — one of the most refined hotel environments in the city, with an inner garden that is among the quietest spots in the city center in summer. Cocktails are executed with precision and service is at a hotel level. A more discreet alternative to the noisier rooftop bars. Open every day from 7 PM to 1 AM.

SOGNI

Via San Calocero 8 — Ticinese

A soft and intimate bar and restaurant with carefully designed lighting, a garden terrace, and an atmosphere that improves as the evening progresses. Cocktails are creative — the parmesan and risotto drink is the signature to try — and the food is genuinely good. More driven by atmosphere than technically focused, but made with real care. Open every evening from 6 PM.

COKE TALES

Via Marcello Malpighi 1 — Porta Venezia

A cocktail bar with hand-painted walls, high ceilings, and a genuinely refined atmosphere for the neighborhood. Drinks are creative and well-balanced; the approach is more quality-oriented than theatrical. A quieter, more meditated option in Porta Venezia. Closed Mondays.

DA ORIENT

Viale Montello 8 — Moscova

A hybrid space that combines a vintage concept store, vinyl culture, and cocktail bar in a coherent and relaxed identity. Martinis are excellent; the

atmosphere is unhurried and curated. The owners are music producers who occasionally move behind the console as the evening progresses — the boundary between bar and listening space shifts accordingly. Open every day from 3 PM.

LISTENING BAR

ONDA LISTENING BAR

Via Bonvesin de la Riva 3 — Porta Venezia

A small listening bar carefully designed with a dedicated vinyl room, serious audio system, and cocktails built around tequila, mezcal, and Italian spirits. The atmosphere is intimate and genuinely music-first — conversation at the right volume, drinks with real thought behind them. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Monday and Sunday.

DEXTER SOUND AND BITES

Via Carmagnola 15 — Isola

A compact bar and kitchen in Isola organized around listening culture — vinyl on shelves, a curated selection playing at the right level, and a small menu that exceeds expectations. Tuna tostada, natural wines, cocktails worth staying for. The room is tiny; book ahead. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Monday and Sunday.

HISTORIC BARS

CAMPARINO IN GALLERIA

Piazza del Duomo 21 — Centro

Aperto dal 1915 all'ingresso della Galleria Vittorio. Open since 1915 at the entrance of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Camparino is the most historically significant bar in Milan. The interior is Art Nouveau — mosaic floors, frescoes, a backbar all Campari — and the Campari Seltz remains the drink to order. The upper floor, with views of the Galleria, requires reservation. A mandatory stop, whatever your aperitivo tastes. Open every day from 9:30am; Sunday until 10 PM.

GINROSA

Piazza San Babila 4/B — Centro

A classic aperitivo bar in one of Milan's most central squares, known for its signature — the

Ginrosa cocktail — and a generous buffet of snacks included with every drink. The environment is compact and elegant, professional service. A reliable and well-positioned stop before dinner. Closed Sundays.

BAR BASSO

Via Plinio 39 — Porta Venezia

The birthplace of the Negroni Sbagliato — invented here by mistake in 1972, when a bartender took prosecco instead of gin — and one of the city's most iconic bars. Drinks are served in generously sized glasses; the room has the unhurried atmosphere of a place that knows exactly what it is. Open from 10 AM; closed Tuesdays..

JAMAICA CAFFÈ

Via Brera 32 — Brera

A Milanese institution since the 1950s, when it was a gathering place for artists, writers, and intellectuals from the Academy of Fine Arts. The atmosphere remains unchanged in spirit — informal, slightly worn, completely uninterested in being fashionable. A rare example of a bar that has survived its own mythology. Open every day from 9:30 AM.

BAR MAGENTA

Via Giosuè Carducci 13 — Magenta

A historic Milanese bar opened in 1907, with original wooden furnishings and a room that reflects the city in its most spontaneous form. Crowded, informal, and without any ambition to be anything other than what it is. Spritz, paninis, a quick coffee — all executed with the competent tranquility of a place that has been doing this for over a century. Open every day from 7 AM; Friday and Saturday until 3 PM.

SHOPS

GASTRONOMY

PECK

Via Spadari 9 — Duomo

Founded in 1883, Peck is Milan's most celebrated

gastronomic institution — a multi-level temple of Italian gastronomy covering charcuterie, cheeses, ready meals, wine, and confectionery. The selection is unmatched for breadth and quality; the prices reflect it. A reference point for anyone who takes Italian food culture seriously. Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

PESCHERIA PONTACCIO

Via Pontaccio 7 — Brera

A small fishmongery carefully managed in the heart of Brera, with a loyal local following and exceptional sourcing standards. Staff clean and prepare to order, and recommendations are reliable. One of the best fish counters in central Milan. Closed Mondays and Sundays.

MACELLERIA MASSERONI

Via Corsico 2 — Navigli

A historic butcher shop near the Navigli with a reputation built over decades on cut quality and breadth of offering — premium meats alongside charcuterie, cheeses, and preserves. One of the most respected addresses in its genre in the city. Closed Sundays.

L'ANNUNCIATA

Via dell'Annunciata 10 — Moscova

A refined butcher shop, poultry, and gastronomy in one of Milan's most residential neighborhoods. The selection is curated and standards consistently high — a quiet and well-managed address for those who take their provisioning seriously. Closed Sundays; Monday morning only.

GIANNASI DAL 1967

Piazza Bruno Buozzi 2 — Porta Romana

A Milanese institution for roasted chicken and roastery since 1967. The queue is managed with a numbered system; the chicken is herb-marinated and cooked to order. Everything is sold by weight and priced accordingly — among the best quality-price ratios in the city. Open every day; Sunday until 3 PM.

ERNST KNAM

Via Augusto Anfossi 10 — Porta Vittoria

The Milanese atelier of German pastry chef Ernst Knam, recognized internationally as one of the best chocolate specialists in Italy. The shop is small and precise, with a selection that rewards attentive care. Closed Monday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

SALUMERIA CAMPAGNOLI

Corso Vercelli 14 — Vercelli

A traditional neighborhood deli on one of Milan's most residential commercial streets. Fresh pasta, charcuterie, ready meals — the kind of daily shopping that has largely disappeared from the city center. Closed Sundays.

DROGHERIA RADRIZZANI

Viale Piave 20 — Porta Venezia

A traditional grocer and wine shop that has maintained its identity while the surrounding neighborhood has changed considerably. The wine selection is serious and well-priced; the atmosphere is that of a place serving the same streets for generations.

Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

BICYCLES

ROSSIGNOLI

Corso Garibaldi 71 — Brera

Open since the post-war period and one of Milan's most characterful bicycle shops. The focus is on classic city bikes — functional, durable, and well-designed — rather than performance cycling. The showroom includes a complete Cinelli collection and a working workshop. A family-run address that has remained completely itself.

Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

OLMO

Piazza Vetra 21 — Ticinese

Founded in 1939, Olmo is one of Italy's historic bicycle brands, still operating in its original Milanese shop on Piazza Vetra. The range covers classic and city bikes alongside the touring tradition for which the brand is known. A well-stocked shop with competent staff and nearly a century of Italian cycling tradition behind it.

Closed Mondays and Sundays.

BARBERS

ANTICA BARBIERIA COLLA

Via Gerolamo Morone 3 — Quadrilatero

One of the last old-world barbershops surviving in Milan, just steps from Via Montenapoleone.

The interior is unchanged — marble sinks, leather chairs, scent of shaving soap — and the craft matches the environment. Hot towel shaves, haircuts, manicures: all done properly, by hand, without hurry.

An experience largely disappeared from the city. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Mondays and Sundays.

JEWELLERY & WATCHES

BUCCELLATI

Via Monte Napoleone 23 — Quadrilatero

Founded in Milan in 1919, Buccellati is one of Italy's great jewelry houses — distinguishable for its engraving techniques, lace gold work, and a craft tradition that has remained central to the brand over a century. The Via Monte Napoleone flagship occupies a multi-story palazzo and represents the entire range of the house.

Closed Mondays.

GIOIELLERIA PENNISI

Via Alessandro Manzoni 29 — Montenapoleone

A specialist in antique and vintage jewelry with a carefully curated selection ranging from Art Déco to Victorian and beyond. The focus is on historic pieces with authentic provenance and craftsmanship, rather than contemporary design or fashion-driven luxury. An address for expert buyers. Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

ORO INCENSO E MIRRA

Via San Fermo 15 — Brera

An antique jewelry shop with a genuinely distinctive character — the owner travels extensively to select pieces from diverse eras and cultures, from Victorian and Georgian to Roman antiquities and Asian objects. Everything is certified in writing. A place to explore slowly, without hurry. Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

SISTERS' ANTIQUES

Via San Giovanni sul Muro 18 — Brera

A curated selection of antique jewelry ranging from Biedermeier to Victorian, Art Nouveau, and Art Déco, along with silver objects and flatware. Run by two sisters with deep expertise in the field. Intimate, well-selected, and genuinely specialist. Closed Sundays and Monday mornings.

LABORATORIO ORAFO PORRO

Via Fiori Chiari 16 — Brera

A historic goldsmith workshop in the heart of Brera, now run by two sisters who inherited both the space and the craft. Accessible through a Milanese courtyard, the atelier offers made-to-order pieces and custom commissions treated with exceptional care and attention. By appointment only. Closed Saturdays and Sundays.

MERÙ GIOIELLI

Via Solferino 3 — Brera

A family-run jewelry shop in Brera with a personal and refined aesthetic. The pieces are contemporary in design but rooted in traditional craftsmanship — well-made, distinctive, and honestly priced relative to quality. Closed Mondays and Sundays.

I SIGNORI DEL TEMPO

Viale Gorizia 8 — Navigli

A specialist retailer and restoration workshop for fine and vintage watches, with a depth of knowledge that extends to written publication on the subject. The family-run team is attentive and genuinely passionate — whether it's purchase, service, or simple curiosity. One of Milan's most reliable watch addresses. Closed Sundays.

LE MUSE

Via Pietro Maroncelli 2 — Sempione

A specialist retailer of high-end vintage watches — Patek Philippe and similar — with a precise and honest approach. The owner has been in the field for over forty years and the selection reflects it. For serious collectors. Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Monday mornings.

OPTOMETRY

58 ETTORE PONTI

Via Crema 6 — Porta Romana

An independent eyewear studio that operates closer to an art salon than a conventional optician. The selection is research-driven and deliberately unconventional — distinctive shapes, quality materials, and lesser-known designers that stand apart from mainstream eyewear. The owner is knowledgeable and attentive, making the experience of choosing a pair genuinely different. Closed Monday and Sunday.

OTTICA SAN MAURILIO

Via San Maurilio 14 — Duomo / Sant'Ambrogio

A true gem just steps from the hotel. In an intimate setting with vintage touches — warmed in winter by a fireplace — Simone and Alessia curate a thoughtful selection of high-end and designer frames, both prescription and sunglasses, with premium lens services. The kind of place where you feel truly followed up on, not just sold to. Open Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM – 19:30 PM. Closed Sunday and Monday.

APPAREL

FARFALLE

Via Varese 12 — Brera

An independent boutique run by Glenna, with a strong and personal point of view. The selection favors niche designers, natural fabrics, and non-generic pieces — a relaxed but intentional Milanese style rooted in individuality rather than trends. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

MARIZA TASSY

Via Molino delle Armi 45 — Centro

A boutique built around textile and material research rather than seasonal fashion. Run by two sisters with an authentic eye for quality, it offers a mix of Italian and international labels with fluid silhouettes, tactile fabrics, and a quiet, slightly artistic identity. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

LUISA BECCARIA

Via Marco Formentini 1 — Brera

Romantic and unmistakably Italian. The Luisa Beccaria flagship in Brera is as much an atmosphere as a store — delicate fabrics, soft palettes, and a highly recognizable aesthetic that has remained consistent over the decades. For those who want beauty without severity.

Closed Sunday.

BARDELLI

Via Madonnina 19 — Brera

A specialist in cashmere, cotton, and silk with a quietly luxurious identity. Classic Milanese elegance expressed through understated knits and refined essentials — beautiful quality, sober in presentation.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

SLOWEAR

Via Solferino 18 — Brera

Contemporary smart-casual for men built around quality essentials — Incotex trousers, Zanone knits, Glanshirt shirts, Montedoro outerwear. Clean, structured, and consistent. The Milan flagship also has a bar.

Open every day.

MASSIMO ALBA

Via Brera 8 — Brera

Soft tailoring focused on texture, color, and comfort — a relaxed but considered interpretation of Milanese style. Fabrics are the starting point; everything else follows. One of the city's most distinctive menswear addresses.

Open every day including Sunday.

CAVALLI E NASTRI

Via Brera 2 — Brera

One of Milan's most established vintage shops, with a wide selection rooted in true archive and era clothing — from pieces worn daily to more distinctive finds including Ferragamo, Valentino, and Chanel. Less fuss and display, more depth and authenticity.

Open every day including Sunday.

CARLA SAIBENE

Via San Maurilio 20 — Centro

A long-standing independent boutique built around research-driven fashion — designers with a clear identity, often unconventional but always consistent. Discreet, cultured, and completely indifferent to trend cycles. An address for a more knowledgeable and intentional clientele.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

RISI

Via San Giovanni sul Muro 21 — Centro

A well-curated shop for men, women, and children, with its own production of classic, well-made clothing alongside carefully selected accessories. Friulian slippers are a signature. Sober, timeless, and genuinely Milanese in spirit.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

STIVALERIA SAVOIA

Via Francesco Petrarca 7 — Magenta

A historic Milanese footwear atelier with a strong craft identity. The focus is on classic, well-constructed shoes and custom-made slippers crafted with traditional techniques — a place suspended in time, in the best sense.

Closed Sunday and Monday.

ILIPRANDI

Piazza San Marco 1 — Brera

A menswear footwear specialist shop in Brera with an in-depth focus on quality English and Italian footwear — Edward Green, Crockett & Jones, John Lobb, Tricker's, Paraboat. Knowledgeable staff, relaxed atmosphere, and competitive prices for the quality level. Tax refund available.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

PUPI SOLARI

Piazza Niccolò Tommaseo — Magenta

A historic Milanese institution for children's clothing — classic, high-quality, and timeless in approach. The shop feels like a world apart from the city, with a calm and considered atmosphere that reflects the quality of what it sells. A long-standing reference for families who take children's clothing seriously.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

WAIT AND SEE

Via Santa Marta 14 — Cinque Vie

A highly personal concept store within a former cloister, blending fashion, objects, and interior design in a layered and eclectic way. More a curated world than a traditional shop — cultured, instinctive, and completely itself. One of the city's most distinctive retail experiences.

Open every day including Sunday afternoon.

IMARIKA

Via Giovanni Morelli 1 — Porta Venezia

One of Milan's most carefully curated women's boutiques — a welcoming space with a strong editorial sensibility and a selection of contemporary brands chosen with a clear and distinctive point of view. The kind of shop where every piece seems considered. Tuesday–Saturday from 9:30 AM; Monday from 12:30 PM; closed Sunday.

LA DOUBLEJ

Via Sant'Andrea 10/A — Quadrilatero

A Milanese original — bold Italian prints, maximalist colors, and a sensibility rooted in the archive of vintage Italian fabrics. The shop feels like an elegant home; the pieces are joyful, unapologetic, and completely distinctive. Clothing, accessories, hardware, and objects, all with the same consistent aesthetic.

Open every day including Sunday.

TEXTILES

TELERIE SPADARI

Via Spadari 13 — Centro

A historic Milanese linen shop just steps from the Duomo, specializing in high-quality tablecloths, bed linens, silk pillowcases, and classic home textiles. The selection includes Art Nouveau fabrics and custom options. Traditional, precise, and deeply rooted in the city's domestic culture.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

SOCIETY LIMONTA

Via Palermo 1 — Brera

The Milanese flagship of a contemporary textile

brand with a strong design identity — sheets, towels, and blankets made with exceptional materials and a clean, considered aesthetic. Positioned at the intersection of fashion and interior design. Closed Sunday.

ASNAGHI

Via della Moscova 68 — Moscova

A traditional Milanese textile and home linen shop with a wide, well-curated selection of fabrics and home textiles. The focus is on quality materials and practical use — solid and reliable rather than design-driven. A genuine neighborhood reference. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

LA CASA DEL BIANCO

Corso Magenta 2 — Centro

A historic Milanese shop specializing in high-quality linens, home textiles, and fine fabrics, with a showroom that reflects the true Milanese spirit: tradition, elegance, and a sense that time has stood still in the best way. Classic, reliable, and completely indifferent to trends.

Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

TESSUTI MIMMA GINI

Via Gian Giacomo Mora 11 — Ticinese

An independent fabric shop with a strong craft identity, known among fashion designers, costume professionals, and serious fabric enthusiasts for its curated selection and depth of knowledge.

The prices reflect the quality; the expertise offered makes the visit worthwhile.

LISA CORTI

Via Lecco 2, Porta Venezia

An independent boutique renowned for its hand-printed textiles, where Italian design meets the centuries-old artisanal traditions of India.

Best known for its vibrant floral and geometric patterns, the store offers elegant kaftans, refined clothing, and distinctive home textiles.

Prices reflect the quality of the materials and the craftsmanship behind each creation, while the bold use of colour and the originality of the collections make the showroom a must-visit for lovers of design and interiors.

BOUTIQUE HERITAGE

PREATTONI

Via Alessandro Manzoni 52 — Quadrilatero

A family-run specialist in gentleman's grooming items, cutlery, and refined accessories — razors, brushes, nail scissors, melon scrapers, gifts for the well-equipped man. The kind of shop that exists because someone took care to keep it exactly as it is. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

VIGANÒ MILANO 1919

Via Maurizio Gonzaga 5 — Centro

A historic Milanese institution continuously in operation since 1919, best known for its umbrellas — particularly those with handmade handles — alongside a wider selection of refined accessories. One of those rare shops that embodies a sense of authentic and timeless style without trying. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

SCARAZZINI

Corso Genova 28 — Ticinese

A small, extraordinary shop that defies easy categorization — wet-shaving razors, Japanese incense, Portuguese soaps, knives, scissors, shoe polish, perfumes. The owner is calm, precise, and genuinely knowledgeable. A place for those who appreciate things done well. Closed Sunday and Monday morning.

SALVATORE & MARIE

Via Vigevano 33 — Navigli

A carefully curated mix of fashion and home objects assembled with refined and sober taste — clothing, accessories, and pieces that resist easy categorization. The kind of shop that reflects a consistent personal vision rather than a buying strategy. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday.

VICOLO MAMELI — V.VM

Via Goffredo Mameli 46 — Porta Vittoria

A beautifully composed shop with a calm and welcoming atmosphere — antiques, selected local products, original objects, and considered gifts

assembled with genuine taste. The kind of place that makes buying a gift a meaningful act. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday.

ARTISAN SHOE MAKER

ALVISI MILANO

Via Goffredo Mameli 24 — Porta Vittoria

A true cobbler specializing in custom-made shoes built from the last, alongside advanced repair work and complete restoration entirely done on-site. The process is rigorous and unhurried — materials, balance, and long-term durability are priorities. Recommended by Loro Piana, trusted by those who understand what shoes are for. An address completely outside product logic. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

INTERIOR DESIGN

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STATIONERY

PETTINAROLI DAL 1881

Via Brera 4 — Brera

One of Milan's historic stationery institutions, continuously in operation since 1881. The shop offers leather-bound notebooks, handmade paper goods, vintage maps, archive prints, and custom bindings — assembled with the quiet authority of a place that has never needed to reinvent itself. The staff takes time with customers and knows the history of every object. From Monday afternoon through Saturday; closed Sunday.

RIGADRITTO

Via Brera 6 — Brera

A contemporary stationery shop with a strong graphic identity, focused on well-designed stationery items, writing instruments, and small objects from across Europe and the USA. Clean, curated, and design-driven — the kind of shop you enter without having anything in mind and leave with something considered. Near Pettinaroli; worth visiting both. Open every day.

CARTOLERIA FONTANA

Via Filippo Corridoni 41 — Porta Vittoria

A neighborhood stationery shop with a generous soul — colors, paper for binding, handmade cards, artisanal scents and gift items, all managed by an owner who listens carefully and invariably finds exactly what you were looking for. The kind of place that shows how much has disappeared from city centers. Tuesday–Friday from 8:00 AM; Monday from 9:30 AM; closed on weekends.

CERAMICS & TABLEWARE

GINORI 1735

Piazza San Marco 3 — Brera

The Milanese flagship of one of Italy's oldest and most prestigious porcelain manufacturers, founded in 1735. The shop offers the entire range of tableware, decorative objects and gifts — all made according to the rigorous standards that define the brand for nearly three centuries. Classic, elegant and deeply rooted in Italian decorative tradition. Open Monday–Saturday.

BITOSI HOME

Via Santa Marta 19 — Cinque Vie

Contemporary tableware and ceramics with a distinctive and playful design language — bold colors, eclectic patterns and a more informal, lifestyle-driven approach that deliberately contrasts with traditional Italian porcelain. The kind of shop that makes tableware a design decision. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday morning.

LABORATORIO PARAVICINI

Via Nerino 8 — Cinque Vie

A ceramic studio hidden in a courtyard in the Cinque Vie neighborhood — hand-decorated plates, custom pieces and a working atelier where the owner explains her process to anyone who asks. Highly recognizable, closely tied to Milanese design culture and one of the city's best-hidden addresses. Monday–Friday; closed on weekends.

BOOKSTORES

LIBRERIA BOCCA

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II 12 — Centro

Italy's oldest bookstore, founded in 1775 and still

operating inside the Galleria. Specialization is in art, architecture and antique books — rare editions, prints and collector volumes assembled with the rigor of a curated archive rather than a commercial selection. A cultural landmark where intellectual heritage takes precedence over accessibility. Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.

AMERICAN BOOKSTORE

Via Manfredo Camperio 16 — Centro

A long-established English-language bookstore near Castello Sforzesco, spread over two floors. The ground floor offers current titles in all genres; the basement is another proposition — antique and rare books, a quieter atmosphere and the feeling of stepping into a private library. One of the city's best addresses for English-speaking visitors or those seeking something unusual. Tuesday–Saturday; afternoon only on Monday; closed Sunday.

LIBRERIA VERSO

Corso di Porta Ticinese 40 — Ticinese

One of Milan's most active independent bookstores — a lively and culturally engaged space that also functions as a bar and regularly hosts readings, author meetings and debates. The selection is well-curated and the atmosphere is open and social. A small English section. Open every day until 9pm on weekdays.

LIBRERIA LINEA D'OMBRA

Via San Calocero 29 — Ticinese

A quiet independent bookstore with a focused and meditated selection — the kind of place run by people who have read everything on the shelves and let it be known. Particularly strong in literature and children's books. For readers seeking thoughtful recommendations rather than bestsellers. Tuesday–Saturday; afternoon only on Monday; closed Sunday.

LIBRERIA DELLO SPETTACOLO

Via Terraggio 11 — Magenta

A niche bookstore entirely dedicated to cinema, theater and performing arts — scripts, programs, monographs, rare editions and an extraordinarily knowledgeable bookseller who presides over

everything. Dense, specialized and unapologetically old-school.

Tuesday–Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday.

RECORDS

SERENDEEPITY

Corso di Porta Ticinese 100 — Ticinese

A cult record store with a strong identity, focused on electronic and underground sounds — techno, house, a well-stocked Italian section and a wide selection beyond. Listening posts, often a DJ playing from the floor below, and a crowd that treats the place as a landmark rather than just a shop. New releases and reissues only; no used. Tuesday–Saturday 10:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Monday from noon; Sunday from 3 PM.

XTCR RECORD STORE

Via Carlo Farini 91 — Isola

One of Milan's most appreciated record stores — new and used vinyl across a wide range of genres, multiple listening posts and staff with genuine expertise and enthusiasm. The kind of place where a brief visit easily turns into an afternoon. Open every day; Sunday from 4 PM.

MASSIVE MUSIC STORE

Via Gustavo Fara 4 — Centrale

A long-established record store near Centrale with a wide and deep selection spanning vinyl, CD and DVD — electronic, hip hop, jazz, soul and beyond. Less curated than Serendepity, more encyclopedic. The kind of place where serious diggers spend an afternoon. Monday–Friday 10:00 AM – 7:30 PM; Saturday with lunch break; closed Sunday.

FLOWERS

CLORI HOME AND FLOWERS

Via Santa Croce 21 — Ticinese

A florist with a distinctive design sensibility — unusual varieties, meditated compositions and a shop environment that extends the same aesthetic to home objects and candles. One of the city's most original addresses for flowers. Open every day;

Sunday until 1:30 PM.

ANNA FLOWER DESIGNER

Corso Magenta 52 — Magenta

A florist and floral design studio on Corso Magenta, with a personal approach to composition and a selection that goes beyond the conventional. Silk foulards and decorative objects alongside flowers. Monday–Saturday; closed Sunday.

PERFUMERY & BEAUTY

OFFICINE UNIVERSELLE BULY 1803

Via Brera 2 — Brera

An elegant French pharmacy and perfumery that blends heritage and craftsmanship — elegant packaging, distinctive fragrances and a retail experience that feels more like a ceremony than commerce. Custom engraving and calligraphy services available in-store. Monday–Saturday; closed Sunday.

OFFICINA PROFUMO SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Via Madonnina 11 — Brera

One of the world's oldest pharmacies, founded by Dominican friars in Florence in the 13th century and still producing perfumes, waters and cosmetics according to the same standards. The Milanese boutique offers the entire range — from iconic Eau de Cologne to room fragrances, soaps and skin care preparations. Open every day.

MAZZOLARI

Corso Monforte 2 — Centro

Milan's most complete niche perfumery — an extraordinary selection of rare and artisanal fragrances, presided over by staff with genuine expertise and patience. The kind of place where finding a perfume becomes a thoughtful experience rather than a transaction. A reference for serious collectors and curious visitors. Monday–Saturday; Sunday afternoon.

PROFUMERIA LORENZI DAL 1924

Via Paolo Sarpi 62 — Chinatown

A historic Milanese perfumery run by the same family since 1924, now at the third generation.

The selection spans niche and luxury fragrances alongside skincare and cosmetics, and the service is genuinely personal — the kind of advice that comes from knowing the merchandise by heart. Tuesday–Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday.

DF18+

Via Santo Spirito 19 — Quadrilatero

A Milanese skincare brand with its own boutique in Quadrilatero — a small, precise selection of serums, balms and treatments formulated with Swiss laboratories and a minimalist philosophy. The approach is selective rather than comprehensive: few well-made products, each with a clear purpose. Tuesday–Friday from 10 AM; Monday and Saturday from 11 AM; closed Sunday.

LIVE MUSIC

A targeted selection of venues with a strong identity. Not exhaustive — only places that still seem real.

BLUE NOTE MILANO

Via Pietro Borsieri 37 — Isola

Milan's jazz reference — polished, professional and internationally connected, with programming that regularly brings important names to the stage. Larger and more spacious than the original in New York, with full restaurant service. Book well in advance for the best tables. Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.

NIDABA THEATRE

Via Emilio Gola 12 — Navigli

A small, atmospheric club deeply rooted in blues and acoustic traditions — one of Milan's most authentic stages. The venue holds up to thirty-four people, which means performers and audience share the same space in the most direct way possible. Booking recommended. Wednesday–Saturday; closed Sunday–Tuesday.

SANTERIA TOSCANA 31

Viale Toscana 31 — Porta Romana

A hybrid venue that combines live music, club nights and cultural events in a large, well-designed space. Young, energetic and versatile — a reliable address for a night that can take multiple directions. Open from 6 PM every day; Friday and Saturday until 2 AM.

BIKO CLUB

Via Ettore Ponti 40 — Barona

A pillar of the Milanese live scene, especially for soul, funk, hip hop and world music. Raw and authentic, with a warm artistic soul and an audience that comes for the music. Note that registration as a member may be required at the entrance.

Open every night.

THEATERS

TEATRO ALLA SCALA

Via Filodrammatici 2 — Centro

The world's most famous opera house and Milan's founding cultural institution. The season runs from December to July, with opera, ballet and orchestral concerts of the highest international caliber. Tickets for main productions sell out months in advance — book early or contact reception.

The museum is open every day and worth a visit even without a performance.

PICCOLO TEATRO STREHLER

Largo Greppi 1 — Cairolì

Founded in 1947 by Giorgio Strehler and Paolo Grassi, Piccolo is one of Europe's great theatrical institutions — a reference for spoken theatre, directing and the relationship between theatre and civic life. Three venues in the city (Strehler, Grassi, Teatro Studio Melato); Strehler is the main hall. Programming spans Italian and international works of consistent quality.

TEATRO FRANCO PARENTI

Via Pier Lombardo 14 — Porta Romana

One of Milan's most vital independent theatres — eclectic, contemporary and constantly engaged with the city. Programming moves between classic and experimental, with particular attention to Italian writing and social themes. The pre-show aperitivo is a local rite.

Closely tied to the legacy of Giovanni Testori.

TEATRO DAL VERME

Via San Giovanni sul Muro 2 — Cairolì

A large modern theatre in the Bicocca district with a wide and varied programming — opera, ballet, musicals and concerts. The theatre served as Scala's main venue during the Duomo restoration works and maintains an important position in the city's cultural calendar. Worth the short metro ride for the right production.

TEATRO DEGLI ARCIMBOLDI

Viale dell'Innovazione 20 — Bicocca

A large modern theatre in the Bicocca district with a wide and varied programming — opera, ballet, musicals and concerts. The theatre served as Scala's main venue during the Duomo restoration works and maintains an important position in the city's cultural calendar. Worth the short metro ride for the right production.

OUTDOOR MARKETS

MERCATONE DELL'ANTIQUARIATO SUL NAVIGLIO GRANDE

Alzaia Naviglio Grande — Navigli

Milan's largest antique market, held on the last Sunday of each month along Naviglio Grande from early morning until afternoon. Hundreds of exhibitors distributed along the canal — furniture, objects, vintage pieces, jewelry, prints and curiosities. Arrive early for the best pieces. Last Sunday of the month only.

FIERA DI SINIGAGLIA

Ripa di Porta Ticinese — Darsena

A historic Saturday market along the Darsena with a genuinely mixed character — vintage clothing, vinyl records, military objects, jewelry, coins and assorted used goods. Chaotic and authentic, without the patina of a curated fair.

One of the few markets that still feels like the city rather than a lifestyle event.

Every Saturday from 8 AM.

MERCATINO DI BRERA

Via Fiori Chiari — Brera

A small but well-curated outdoor market in Brera's pedestrian streets — antiques, vintage objects and crafts in one of the city's most characterful settings.

Held on the third Sunday of the month, with more frequent dates during certain periods of the year.