



MARVELOUS MILAN

Fabulous fashion, creative cuisine and cultural wonders in the Italian city

By Melanie Haiken

» From a window table in a cafe, I have the perfect vantage of “Milan’s living room.” Beneath me, crowds flow through the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping emporium, past glowing window displays with offerings from designers such as Armani and Versace.

I’m savoring a flaky, buttery cornetto pastry at Marchesi 1824, in an outpost of one of Milan’s most popular bakeries. Hidden away on the mezzanine and accessed via a stairway inside the Prada store, this location of the Milan favorite is a respite from the bustling scene below.

I marvel at the floors tiled with colorful mosaics of Italian city crests, as well as the gravity-defying architecture inside the Galleria. The glass-domed hall, built between 1865 and 1877 and designed by architect Giuseppe Mengoni (1829–1877), features a cathedral-high vaulted glass ceiling held aloft by a lattice of cast-iron supports. The site reinforces what I know to be true: Milan is a city that leads the way in European design of many kinds.

For more retail browsing, I head to the Quadrilatero d’Oro shopping district, anchored by Via Monte Napoleone and Via



» Marchesi 1824, above, is a popular cafe with a location that overlooks shoppers in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, top left. Museo del Novecento, top right, includes a stunning spiraling ramp. The Duomo di Milano, lower right, is a work of art made of Italian marble.



onion, olives and tomato; and the classic tomato and mozzarella cheese. I fuel up because I've got tickets to Teatro alla Scala, Milan's iconic opera house, to see Verdi's *I masnadieri* (*The Robbers*). (From December 10, 2019, to January 8, 2020, the theater is showing Puccini's *Tosca*.) For me, an evening at the opera is the perfect way to celebrate my arrival in one of Europe's cultural centers.

Centuries of creativity

While Milan is often heralded as Italy's city of the future for its cutting-edge fashion and design shows, its identity as a fulcrum of creative and commercial activity goes back many hundreds of years, nurtured by the rise and fall of industries such as textiles and supported by the patronage of some of Italy's wealthiest families. I'm surprised to learn that Milan is also one of Europe's oldest cities, settled in 600 B.C. by the Celtic Insubres, and then conquered by the Romans, who in the third century made it the capital of the western part of their empire.

Dubbed Mediolanum, or "the central place," for its strategic location between the Italian Peninsula and the lands accessible to the west, east and north through the Alps, Milan has been oriented toward business from its earliest beginnings.

della Spiga streets. There are glittering showrooms for Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co. and Gucci, and I enjoy watching people and browsing in stores such as Santoni, which sells handmade shoes.

My next stop is the Museo del Novecento, a showcase of 20th century art in the Palazzo Arengario, a former government complex transformed into an airy space with a glass-walled spiraling ramp. The museum provides the perfect setting for works by Picasso and de Chirico, and for galleries devoted to futurist, pop and conceptual art.

On a street near Piazza del Duomo and the Museo del Novecento, Panzerotti Luini serves delicious puffs of soft dough filled with many combinations, such as ricotta and spinach; ham and cheese;



"Location, location, location," whispers a fellow traveler the morning of my second day in Milan as we stand in a square, listening to a guide explain how Milan's wealth and prominence can be seen all over the city.

I find proof of that wealth in the Duomo di Milano, a confection of pink-tinted Italian marble that from a distance looks as much like a fairytale castle as a cathedral. It's adorned with more than 3,400 statues and a lacelike ornamental



crest. With a history of ruins dating to the PaleoChristian era and formal construction taking place in the Middle Ages, the duomo was built to accommodate more than 3,000 people. It's one of the biggest cathedrals in Europe and took more than six centuries to complete, making it a symbol of both the city's power and its role in fostering the arts.

Design details include dozens of stained-glass windows built in a cascading history of styles from medieval to contemporary. At the sarcophagus of Saint Charles Borromeo, light gleams through the cut rock crystal case enclosing the venerated saint. Two lifts and stairs provide access to the Duomo's rooftop, with its expansive views of the city and opportunities for close-up scrutiny of the gargoyles lining the edifice.

Climbing the stairs works up my appetite for lunch. At Latteria San Marco, a local favorite for healthier, vegetable-forward versions of traditional Italian fare, I opt for a hearty vegetable stew and *testaroli*, with eggplant, salted ricotta and zucchini.

After my meal, I visit a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, to see Leonardo da Vinci's

» **Castello Sforzesco, a complex reconstructed by the 15th century ruler Ludovico Sforza, now houses fine art.**



Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia.

AT A GLANCE

Popular attractions

- The Pinacoteca di Brera is a museum with a world-class collection of classical works, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Caravaggio, Tintoretto and Mantegna.
- Piazza dei Mercanti, the heart of Milan's craft district since the Middle Ages, feels like the set of a Shakespeare play.

Hidden gems

- Donato Bramante painted the 15th century Santa Maria presso San Satiro with a mind-bending trompe l'oeil illusion that makes the space appear roughly four times bigger than it really is.
- Isola, which means "island," once housed factory workers but is now one of Milan's hippest neighborhoods, known for its colorful murals and street art.

Where to go first in town if you're a ...

... Music lover: Casa di Riposo per Musicisti is the resting place of Verdi, the great Italian composer. It was founded in 1899 as a retirement home for musicians.

... Science nerd: The Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia is one of Italy's best museums for science and technology. It's housed in a Renaissance-era monastery.

... Foodie: Un Posto a Milano, in an old farmhouse near Porta Romana, is a Milan leader in local, foraged and farm-to-table cuisine, with a guest-house onsite.

... Romantic: The Palazzo di Brera, with its secluded botanical gardens and Astronomical Observatory, offers a museum of scientific instruments and a library.

Distinctive dish: Rich with butter and fragrant with saffron pistils, *risotto giallo alla Milanese* reflects the city's affluence and taste for the good life. Trattoria Masuelli near Porta Romana serves a stellar version.



Classic drink: The Negroni (left) owes its characteristic bitterness to Campari, produced just outside Milan. Try the Negroni

Sbagliato, with prosecco substituted for gin, at Bar Basso, which created this iteration of the drink. —M.H.

The Last Supper, appropriately housed in the refectory of the convent.

To continue my Renaissance focus, I head next to Castello Sforzesco, a fortresslike enclave reconstructed by Ludovico Sforza, Milan's influential 15th century ruler. The big draw is Michelangelo's not-quite-finished marble sculpture *Rondanini Pietà*, moved from Rome to its own museum here.

But I also enjoy *Leonardo's Horse*, a lifelike equine statue commissioned to honor Sforza but also incomplete, realized by da Vinci only as a clay model. The bronze statue now standing was created from da Vinci's original designs. It was unveiled in the late 1990s.

Behind the castle, the Parco Sempione is a serene oasis of crisscrossing paths, formal gardens and a willow-draped lake.

The Brera area surrounding the park



PHIL DUNNE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

is rich with dining options. At Ristorante Daniel, chef Daniel Canzian offers adventurous flair, with dishes including guinea fowl and suckling pig. Sitting at the bar in front of the open kitchen, I order one of the two tasting menus and am especially thrilled with the icy Sicilian watermelon frost that finishes off the meal.

Canals and creative reuse

The next day I go to one of Milan's oldest districts, the Ticinese, named for the ancient city gate here. This is where I find the fifth century Basilica San Lorenzo Maggiore. The basilica includes sites such as the Chapel of Sant'Aquilino, a mausoleum with Byzantine mosaics that glow with



Filmmakers! Submissions are now open for SIFF 2020. Screening over 400 films to more than 138,000 attendees, SIFF is the home of the world's best new films.

Apply at SIFF.net

CALL
FOR
ENTRIES

Seattle
International
Film Festival

May 14 - June 7, 2020

Plan Your Trip

TO THE LARGEST FILM FESTIVAL
IN THE UNITED STATES!

Start planning at **SIFF.net/travel**

SIFF PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:  Port of Seattle




“A
PHENOMENON
ON BROADWAY
AND ABROAD!”

The Seattle Times

“THIS STORY
TOUCHED
THE WORLD.”

We need it,
especially right now.”

TOM BROKAW 

COME
FROM
AWAY

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music and Lyrics

by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Musical Staging by Kelly Devine

Directed by Christopher Ashley

TELECHARGE.COM

(212) 239-6200

 Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre

COMEFROMAWAY.COM

Cascade

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

OREGON COAST | PORTLAND METRO | SW WASHINGTON
CENTRAL OREGON | COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE | SOUTHERN OREGON



TETHEROW VACATION HOMES

BEND OREGON

The Cairn & Trailhead at Award-Winning Tetherow
Starting in the low \$400,000s

Two income-producing vacation home neighborhoods with fine, turn-key homes-just steps from luxury resort amenities & minutes to world-class outdoor recreation.
bendpropertysource.com/vacationhomes

Brian Ladd, Principal Broker | 541.633.4569
tetherow@bendpropertysource.com



19312 EATON LANE

BEND OREGON

4 BD | 4.5 BA | DEN + BONUS | 4,150 SF | \$1,099,750

Newly finished home in Triple Knot at Tetherow Golf Course. Luxurious NW Contemporary finishes, A/C, 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces & more. Large deck w/Cascade views. Low maintenance lock and go living.

Stephanie Ruiz, Broker | 541.948.5196
Jordan Grandlund, Principal Broker | 541.420.1559
stephaniewilsonruiz@yahoo.com



TUMALO EQUESTRIAN ESTATE

BEND OREGON

3 BD | 4.5 BA | 9,682 SF | 33.88 AC | \$4,500,000

Cascade mountain views, stocked pond, 25 acres of water rights, barn with studio, bunkhouse, equestrian barn, hay barn, gated and borders public land.
66500gerkingmarket-bendoregon.com

Pam Mayo-Phillips, Principal Broker | 541.480.1513
Brook Havens, Principal Broker | 541.604.0788
brookmhavens@gmail.com



CHERRY CREEK MOUNTAIN RANCH

PRINEVILLE OREGON

Recreational Ranch | 15,754 deeded acres | \$9,950,000

Ranch: 90 acres of seasonal water rights, qualifies for LOP Hunting tags, abundant wildlife, meadows, creeks, timber, close to the John Day River.

cherrycreekranch-mitchelloregon.com

Pam Mayo-Phillips, Principal Broker | 541.480.1513
Brook Havens, Principal Broker | 541.604.0788
brookmhavens@gmail.com



SOUTHWESTERN RANCH

SISTERS OREGON

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,567 SF | 31 AC | \$1,495,000

Spanish-style Hacienda has 3 bed, 2.5 baths, office & bonus room on 31 acres with 10 acres of irrigation. 5-stall 4,000 square foot barn with ranch hand quarters & workshop & Mt Jefferson view! OldMilitarySisters.com

Suzanne Carvlin, Broker | 818.216.8542
Patty Cordoni, Principal Broker
suzanne.carvlin@cascadesir.com



EXCEPTIONAL LODGE STYLE HOME

SISTERS OREGON

3 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,585 + SF | 9.41 AC | \$2,250,000

Mountain views, secluded landscaped setting minutes to town in Sisters, Oregon. 3,585 SF main home. 3,456 SF barn includes guest quarters, additional bunk room, workshop & stalls. Fenced pastures, 2 wells, large pond with dock. ChestnutHillSisters.com

Suzanne Carvlin, Broker | 818.216.8542
Jeff Jones, Principal Broker
suzanne.carvlin@cascadesir.com

CascadeSothebysRealty.com | 541.383.7600

Each office is independently owned and operated. *

SHOP·EAT·EXPLORE

Lakewood, Wash.



SEE WHAT THE SOUTH SOUND HAS TO OFFER.

cityoflakewood.us



Photo by Dean Paulson Photography

» NEAR & FAR MILAN

burnished gold tile. In front of the basilica is the Colonnade of San Lorenzo, a row of 16 Corinthian columns that remain as evidence of the Roman Mediolanum.

In the Navigli District, adjacent to Ticinese, I see beautiful canals said to have been designed by da Vinci. They were once used to transport marble to build the Duomo. These waterways, including Naviglio Grande and Naviglio Pavese, are today lined with bookshops, cafes, antique stores and galleries.

Zona Tortona, once an industrial area near the Navigli District, is now one of Milan's hippest neighborhoods. The streets are full of colorful murals and are home to galleries, photography studios, and cocktail bars in variations of Midcentury Modern and futurist decors. I visit the Museo delle Culture di Milano, known as Mudec. The facility is a hub of art and design that opened in 2015 in a former factory, helping to revitalize the Tortona area.

My post-gallery hangout is The Botanical Club of Milan, where I find cocktails with names such as the Stranger Mule—made with ginger beer and gin—and La Cosecha—made with Pisco and peanut butter.

Toasting my adventures with a modified daiquiri in a neighborhood that's turned from industrial to trendy, I realize that once again, Milan manages to be a bridge between an ancient past and a future continually being redefined. ✈

Melanie Haiken writes from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Earn Mileage Plan miles when you visit Milan on Alaska Global Partners, including Emirates. Go to alaskaair.com for more information on Alaska Mileage Plan.

LUXURY DEFINED

Ashland, OR

The Arts & Culture
Capital of Oregon

Two homes

120 usable acres

Agricultural barn

Irrigation & water rights



Patsie Volk
Broker
RE/MAX Platinum
(541) 200-5307
patricia@patsievolk.com



David Wright
Principal Broker
RE/MAX Platinum
(541) 301-7125
dwright@remaxso.com



2594 E Barnett Rd, Suite B, Medford, OR 97504 | Brokers licensed in the state of Oregon