



Valextra

**City Guide Valextra
Presents Milano,
by the locals**

Valextra Presents Milano, by the Locals

Introducing Valextra Presents: Milano, by the Locals, an intimate guide to the city that has been a constant source of inspiration for Valextra since founder Giovanni Fontana opened the first boutique in 1937.

Milan is a city that reveals itself slowly, moving behind closed doors and quiet courtyards, before gradually extending its invitation. A city of structure and composure, where moments of fluidity and spontaneity emerge against a mood of intrigue.

To celebrate the synchronicity between Valextra's home and its codes, friend of the brand Helen Nonini has curated a selection of places shaped by everyday Milanese life and recommended by the locals.

“The starting point for me was carefully selecting the right voices, people whose relationship with Milan is lived, personal, and deeply rooted,” says Helen Nonini. “By involving people who live the city in different ways, I was able to capture a Milan that is layered, intimate, and constantly evolving.”

Whether you are a new resident or discovering the city for the first time, these are the places to stay, shop, and pause to reflect on the true character of Milan.

Contributors

A selection of Milanese voices, curators, designers, and friends of the brand who reveal their personal rituals and hidden places in the city.

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Cafès and Bars

Milan's cafès and bars are places of quiet observation - where time moves more slowly, and the art of living well is distilled into the smallest gestures: an espresso at the counter, a slice of cake on a marble table, the late-afternoon light filtering through etched glass.

Here are the city's most enduring rituals of taste and elegance.

Bar Basso

Address: Via Plinio 39, 20020 Milano

Open since 1947, Bar Basso is a Milanese institution; it was the first-ever bar in Milan to introduce the “aperitif” to everyday folk.

Insider tip: Order the legendary “Negroni sbagliato” served in tall, transparent glass tumblers - as Maria Cristina Didero notes, “At Bar Basso you meet the unexpected, and yet its presence is deeply reassuring.”

Caffè Pasticceria Cucchi

Address: Corso Genova, 1, 20123 Milano MI

Open since 1936, Cucchi is an old-world café where writers and artists once gathered for coffee and conversation. The glass counter still glows with candied fruit and pastries.

Insider tip: Order the “marocchino” - a small, perfect Milanese invention of coffee, cocoa and foam.

Bar Jamaica

Address: Via Brera 32, 20121 Milano

Founded in 1921, Bar Jamaica became the epicentre of Milan's artistic and literary life in the post-war years. Writers, poets, and artists gathered here, making it a living chapter of the city's bohemian history.

Insider tip: As Emanuela Schmeidler says, this bar "tells the story of my life" - it's where Milan's creative soul still breathes.

Pasticceria Galli

Address: Via Victor Hugo 14, 20123 Milano

Opened in 1911 and celebrated for its marron glacés, Galli is a place where cinema meets sweetness - Luchino Visconti was a regular, and a young Lucia Bosè once worked behind the counter.

Insider tip: Try the pralines and take a moment to look at the original Art Nouveau details.

Pasticceria Martesana

Address: Via Cagliero 14, 20125 Milano

Founded in 1966, Martesana bridges tradition and innovation, known for award-winning “panettone” and refined contemporary desserts.

Insider tip: Visit their original shop in Maggiolina for a quieter, old-Milan atmosphere.

Pasticceria Ranieri

Address: Via della Moscova 7, 20121 Milano

Since the 1960s, Ranieri has been one of the city’s quietest rituals - a patisserie of precision, light and understatement. Its “pasticceria mignon” and buttery “panettone” embody the Milanese idea of perfection.

Insider tip: Stop by mid-afternoon - you’ll find regulars standing at the counter, not tourists.

Pavè

Address: Via Felice Casati 27, 20124 Milano

Pavé is one of Milan’s most celebrated artisanal bakeries and cafés, founded in 2012 by three friends in the Porta Venezia neighborhood. Specializing in freshly baked breads, sweet and savory brioches, pastries inspired by French techniques, and traditional Italian and Lombard desserts, Pavé combines high-quality products with a welcoming, home-like atmosphere.

Insider tip: Visit in mid-morning or mid-afternoon to enjoy Pavé’s fresh daily croissants, pastries, or seasonal specialties like panettone at a relaxed pace, when the café feels most like a cozy neighborhood salon.

Romanengo

Address: Via Manzoni 5, 20121 Milano

Founded in Genoa in 1780 - is Italy's oldest confectioner, where time-honoured recipes meet artisanal beauty. Step into our boutique or salon de thé to discover candied fruits, chocolates, and pastilles crafted by hand, just as they were centuries ago. A place of heritage and quiet indulgence, perfect for a quiet lunch, or simply an ice cream or a hot chocolate in the winter season.

Insider tip: "At Romanengo, every detail feels like nature preserved in a gesture - the colours, the scents, the quiet care behind each confection. It's a place where beauty tastes of memory, and sweetness becomes a form of contemplation." - Helen Nonini





Restaurants and Trattorias

Milan's restaurants are not about spectacle but substance - places where recipes carry memory, and time is measured in courses rather than hours.

From century-old trattorias to modern reinterpretations, these tables reflect the city's true character: discreet, enduring, quietly generous.

Antica Trattoria del Gallo

Address Via Privata Gerli, 3, 20083 Gaggiano

A countryside escape just outside Milan, offering exquisite traditional dishes in a serene setting.

Insider tip: Reserve ahead for Sunday lunch - the trattoria fills quickly with Milanese families seeking an escape to the countryside.

Antica Trattoria della Pesa

Address: Viale Pasubio 10, 20154 Milano

Historic charm and culinary precision - one of the most elegant trattorias in Milan, dating back to the 19th century.

Insider tip: Sava Bisazza Terracini Visconti loves it because “Francesca always makes you feel at home, and you’ll always meet someone to share a chat with, even if you arrive alone.”

Il Baretto Milano

Address: Via Sant’Andrea, 19, 20121 Milano

An elegant Milanese dining room where refined simplicity meets warm hospitality. Located in the heart of the fashion district, Il Baretto serves contemporary Italian cuisine in an intimate setting.

Insider tip: As Emanuela Schmeidler describes it, “It feels like home - like eating in your own kitchen turned into a salon, with an atmosphere that reminds you how wonderful life in Milan can be.”

Cantina Piemontese

Address: Via Laghetto 2, 20122 Milano

Founded in 1908, this restaurant celebrates the flavours of Piedmont and Lombardy in elegant, understated surroundings.

Insider tip: Helen Nonini's favourite restaurant, a place where Milan's elegance feels effortless. "I love its quiet confidence and timeless grace; it's where tradition and proportion meet in every gesture. In autumn and winter, they host jazz concerts, evenings where music and cuisine blend into one harmonious Milanese ritual."



Il Consolare

Address: Via Ciovasso 4, 20121 Milano

A classic seafood trattoria in the heart of Brera, Il Consolare presents a traditional maritime menu served in an elegant yet relaxed setting with white tablecloths and polished service.

Insider tip: “When I want a simple, honest lunch, I come to Il Consolare. You pick your fish, let them cook it their way, and suddenly you’re having a true seaside moment right in Milan.” - Luchino Visconti

Degustazione ristoro e dispensa

Address: Via Tommaso da Cazzaniga 89/a, Milan, Italy 20121

Located in the historic Casa degli Artisti with its striking 1930s concrete pergola, this restaurant by Lorenzo Castellini, set in a hidden garden in Brera, celebrates seasonal, mostly local ingredients.

Insider tip: Architect Luciano Giorgi, whose studio is nearby, loves it as “a meeting place for friends - old and new - from the diverse worlds that an art-oriented space (for over a century now) can hold.”

Emoraya

Address: Piazza Antonio Baiamonti 2, 20154 Milano

Emoraya is a Japanese-style bistrot in Milan that intentionally skips sushi and sashimi in favour of ingredient driven dishes, often grilled over charcoal or fried, paired with an attentive sake selection emphasising regional variation and minerality.

Insider tip: Luchino Visconti says “Emoraya is my go-to when I want something genuinely Japanese yet unexpected. Sit at the counter, try the grilled eel, and let the sake guide the conversation.”

Gong

Address: Corso Concordia, 8, 20129 Milano

A sophisticated Oriental fusion restaurant where contemporary Asian cuisine meets elegant Milanese design. Known for its refined interpretations of Chinese and pan-Asian dishes in a stylish, modern setting.

Insider tip: Gabriele Pennisi's favourite restaurant - "a testament to its quality and refined atmosphere."

Kanpai

Address: Via Melzo 11, 20129 Milano

A contemporary cocktail bar and Japanese eatery where expert mixology meets authentic Asian flavours. Known for its bespoke cocktails and intimate atmosphere.

Insider tip: According to Sava Bisazza Terracini Visconti, "They ask what you don't like, and with just a few hints, create the perfect cocktail for you."

Langosteria

Address: multiple locations in Milan - including Via Savona 10, Via Privata Bobbio 2, Galleria del Corso 4, and Corso Matteotti 9.

Founded in 2007, Langosteria has become Milan's most iconic seafood destination - elegant, cosmopolitan, and effortlessly contemporary. Each restaurant shares the same philosophy of excellence, where the atmosphere balances precision and ease, and the cuisine celebrates the sea with refined authenticity.

Insider tip: Check the Langosteria website to choose the location that best suits your moment - from the intimate Bistrot to the more vibrant Langosteria Savona or the refined Montenapoleone address.

La Nuova Arena

Address: Piazza Lega Lombarda 5, 20154 Milan

A true Milanese trattoria where the menu changes with the seasons, always guided by the availability and quality of the finest produce. It serves simple yet refined dishes that celebrate authentic flavours and genuine hospitality.

Insider tip: Carolina Fumagalli recommends visiting in autumn, “because they serve mushrooms, chestnuts, truffles, and all the other seasonal treasures”.

Latteria San Marco

Address: Via San Marco 24, 20121 Milano

A nine-table latteria run by Arturo and Maria since the 1960s - half home, half restaurant, entirely Milanese. Seasonal dishes are cooked and served with the quiet grace of another era.

Insider tip: There’s no sign outside and no bookings; arrive early and speak softly - it’s a place built on trust.

Motelombroso

Address: Alzaia Naviglio Pavese 256, 20142 Milano

Housed in a former road keeper’s house along the Naviglio Pavese, Motelombroso is a place devoted to time well spent - where food, nature, and creativity meet.

Insider tip: Maurizio Stocchetto & Pia Bianchi describe their friends Alessandra e Michele, as “passionate culinary explorers who will surprise you with their creations, in a beautiful garden devoted to food and leisure.”

Nino Osteria

Address: Via Nino Bixio 47, 20129 Milan

A contemporary take on the classic Italian osteria, founded by a trio, a project born from friendship, shared culinary values, and a desire to explore a more expressive kind of hospitality. The space, characterised by a bold 1970s aesthetic feels both intimate and thoughtful. The menu shifts frequently, with a dozen or so dishes designed for sharing alongside a handful of more structured primi and secondi, all rooted in Italian ingredients, seasonality, and a respect for producers and technique.

Insider tip: Approach the menu as a narrative rather than a checklist – ask what’s new today, consider sharing several smaller plates, and let the kitchen’s changing choices guide your meal in tune with the season and the chef’s inspiration.

Piccola Cucina

Address: Viale Piave 17, 20129 Milano

A small, intimate Italian restaurant where the menu changes with the seasons and all dishes are prepared express-allowing the flavours of selected ingredients to shine in a warm, refined atmosphere.

Insider tip: “Piccola Cucina feels like a hidden corner of calm in the city - perfect for a quiet dinner where the dishes change, but the warmth never does.” - Luchino Visconti

Poporoya

Address: Via Eustachi 17, 20129 Milano

The first sushi bar in Italy and remains one of Milan’s most authentic Japanese dining experiences. This intimate izakaya brings the warmth and convivial spirit of Tokyo’s traditional taverns to the city.

Insider tip: Guido Daminelli loves it because “I love Japanese food, and even more the traditional izakaya style you find there - small, warm, and authentic.”

Al Porto

Address: Piazza General Antonio Cantore 13, 20123 Milano

Since 1967, Al Porto has served Milan, based on the excellence of its seafood-located in an old toll-booth by the Darsena, this restaurant offers a marinara-centric menu in an elegant marine-inspired space.

Insider tip: Luchino Visconti recommends: “Book a table by the veranda and let the sea come to you. Every dish here tells a story of tradition, elegance, and genuine hospitality.” - Luchino Visconti

Ratanà

Address: Via Gaetano de Castillia 28, 20124 Milano

A bridge between past and present: modern Milanese cuisine served in a converted warehouse in Porta Nuova.

Insider tip: Perfect for expats who love design and tradition in equal measure.

Ristorante Nebbia

Address: Via Evangelista Torricelli 15, 20136 Milano

A contemporary Italian restaurant near the Navigli that reinterprets northern-Italian tradition through high-quality, seasonal ingredients.

Insider tip: Enrica Cavarzan and Marco Zavagno say: “When we’re in the mood for something simple, welcoming, and authentically Italian, Nebbia is our go-to - a place where traditional ingredients are reinterpreted for refined palates.”

Ristorante Nina (The Wilde members club)

Address: Via dei Giardini 16, 20121 Milan

An exclusive members club restaurant in the heart of Milan's luxury district. Nina offers refined Italian cuisine in an intimate, sophisticated setting reserved for members and their guests.

Insider tip: Emanuele Pennisi's favourite restaurant, "perfect for those seeking privacy and elegance in Milan's most exclusive dining setting."

Ronin (Piccolo Ronin & Ronin Robata)

Address: Via Vittorio Alfieri 17, 20154 Milano

A Japanese fusion restaurant with two distinct experiences: Piccolo Ronin for informal dining and Ronin Robata for a refined atmosphere. Contemporary Japanese cuisine with creative twists.

Insider tip: Luisa Delle Piane & Marco Lotito call it "the perfect place to host our guests. The fusion setting suits us perfectly."

Rovello 18

Address: Via Ariberto 3, 20123 Milano

Rovello 18 is a historic Milanese trattoria born from a long family tradition that began in the 1950s. Passed down through generations, this heritage brings both tradition and personal experience to the table today. The restaurant is known for its careful ingredient selection, refined reinterpretations of Lombard and northern Italian classics, and an extensive wine list that complements the cuisine with clarity and depth.

Insider tip: "Renewing itself while remaining true to itself" – this philosophy guides Rovello 18 today. You'll sense it in the way tradition is respected without being repeated, and in how each dish feels both familiar and quietly contemporary.

Trattoria Arlati

Address: Via Alberto Nota 47, 20126 Milano

Opened since 1936, this is one of Milan's oldest trattorias - part restaurant, part time capsule.

Insider tip: Ask to sit in the main dining room; the walls tell half the story.

Trattoria Milanese 1933

Address: Via Santa Marta 11, 20123 Milano

Founded in 1933, it's one of the city's true culinary institutions, still serving traditional recipes with grace and consistency.

Insider tip: Try the "ossobuco" with risotto alla milanese - a perfect Milanese pairing.

Trattoria del Nuovo Macello

Address: Via Cesare Lombroso 20, 20137 Milano

A 1928 family-run trattoria near Porta Vittoria. Honest food, simple interiors, and one of the best "cotoletta alla Milanese" in town.

Insider tip: Go for lunch during the week - authentic, calm, and full of regulars.

Trattoria Ottimofiore

Address: Via Bramante 26, 20154 Milano

An authentic Sicilian trattoria near Milan's Paolo Sarpi district. A surprising contrast that works beautifully, offering excellent Sicilian cuisine in a warm, unpretentious atmosphere.

Insider tip: Eleni Petaloti loves "walking through Chinatown and stepping into this Sicilian spot, where the food is excellent and the atmosphere feels beautifully authentic."

Trippa

Address: Via Giorgio Vasari 1, 20135 Milano

Opened in 2015, Trippa has become a modern cult trattoria - unpretentious, lively and grounded in authentic Italian cooking.

Insider tip: Book weeks in advance - their fried tripe is the talk of the city.

Yoshi

Address: Via Galileo Galilei 5, corner of Via Marco Polo, 20124 Milano

Yoshi (also referenced as Yoshinobu) stands out for its high-quality Japanese cuisine in Milan-meticulously selected raw materials, a calm, minimalist interior, and a sushi and sashimi offering that consistently ranks among the city's top Japanese dining experiences.

Insider tip: Luchino Visconti suggests "Sit at the counter and watch the chef in motion - every gesture precise, every bite perfect. Yoshi turns sushi into cinema."

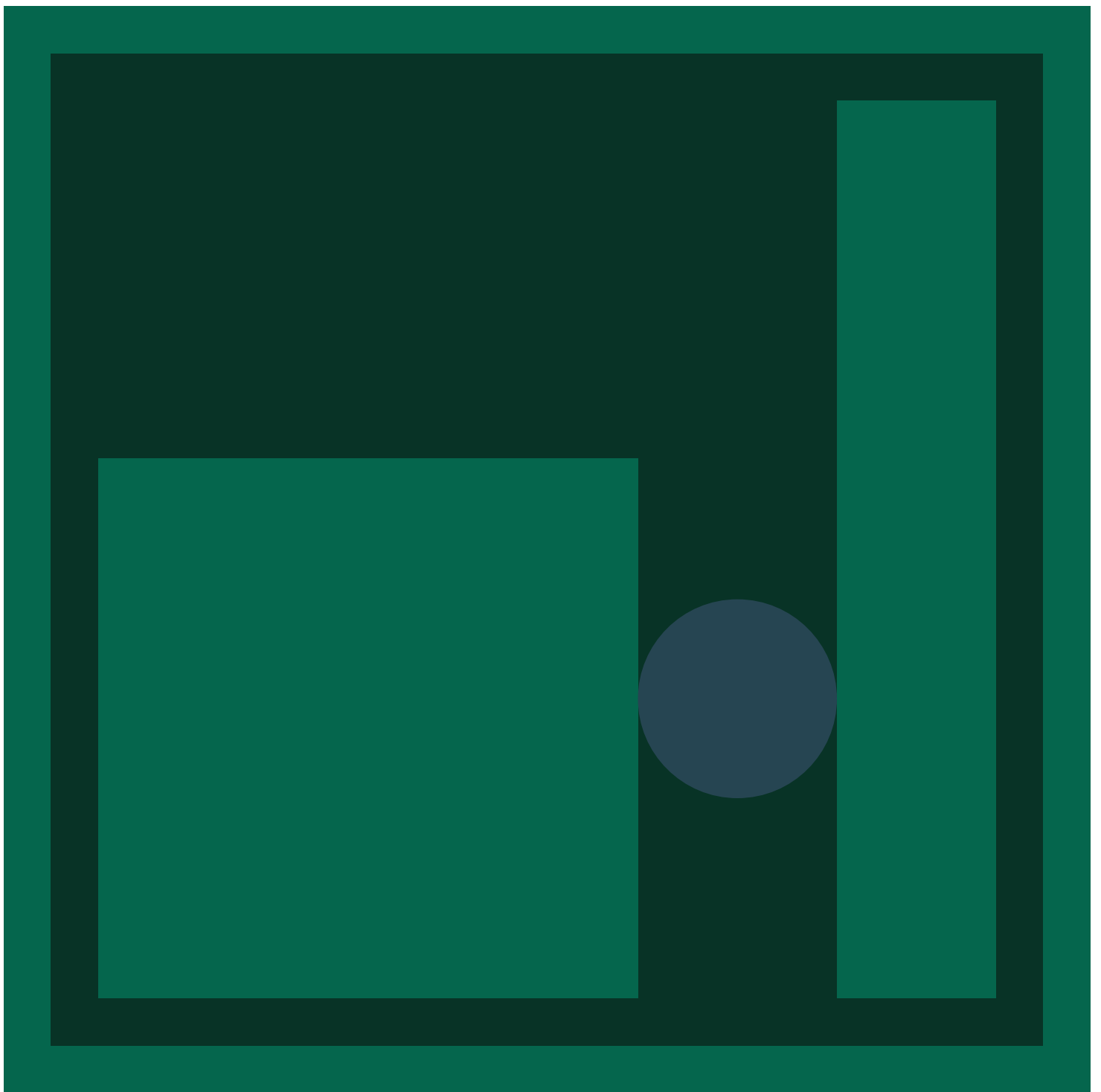
Sandì

Address: Via Francesco Hayez 13, 20129 Milano

Sandì Milano is a contemporary restaurant characterised by a restrained, thoughtful atmosphere. The interiors combine terrazzo floors, light surfaces, and carefully selected vintage details, creating a space that feels calm, precise, and quietly welcoming. The cuisine reflects the same philosophy – seasonal and concise, shaped by market availability and a modern Italian sensibility, with a particular attention to balance and clarity of flavours.

Insider tip: for the most authentic experience let the weekly menu guide you through the freshest seasonal impressions of Milan's vegetable-forward cuisine.





Shop and Artisans

Milan's soul reveals itself behind quiet shopfronts: tailors, hat-makers, stationers, and workshops where gestures are repeated like prayers.

These addresses preserve a culture of doing things well - with patience, precision, and the belief that beauty lies in details few will notice.

Shops & Boutiques

Places of taste and tradition, where they sell what represents Milanese culture of beauty.

Valextra Flagship Store

Address: Via Alessandro Manzoni, 3, 20121 Milano

Valextra is one of Italy's most well-known and refined leather goods brands. Taking constant inspiration from the world-renowned architecture of its hometown of Milan, Valextra's handbags and luggage embody its commitment to creating timeless everyday objects of Italian excellence. Situated on Via Manzoni in the heartbeat of Milan's creative district, the flagship boutique denotes the discreet yet distinctive signatures of the brand (see the famous black glossy "Costa" edging), presenting its iconic collections alongside special limited editions that define whispered Milanese luxury.

Insider Tip: Plan a trip to coincide with Salone del Mobile to enjoy its renowned collaborative installations with world-class architect and design studios.



Gioielleria Pennisi

Address: Via Manzoni 29, 20121 Milano

A discreet jewellery boutique founded in 1970, specialising in antique and Art Deco pieces. Each display is a small museum of Milanese taste.

Insider tip: Look for signed pieces from the 1920s and '30s - true collector treasures.

Orologeria Sangalli

Address: Via Bergamini 7, 20122 Milano

A watchmaker's boutique where time is still measured mechanically, not digitally, where cuckoo clocks, vintage timepieces and Swiss brands fill the space.

Insider tip: Ask to see their collection of vintage Omega and Longines pieces.

Preattoni Milano

Address: Via Manzoni corner Via della Spiga 52, 20121 Milano

Since 1946, Preattoni is a treasure trove of fine cutlery, shaving accessories, niche perfumes and smoking articles - a testament to the philosophy of "useful elegance".

Insider tip: Step inside to meet Lorenzo, who personally curates every item with the passion of a collector and the expertise of four generations.

Amleto Missaglia 1884

Address: Via Giuseppe Verdi 6, 20121 Milano

Since 1884, this historic boutique has been the reference for Milanese families seeking fine silverware, crystal, and porcelain.

Insider tip: housed in a historic palazzo steps from La Scala, this is the perfect location for an international clientele seeking the finest table art.

Arnaldo Chierichetti

Address: Via San Pietro All'Orto 22, 20122 Milano

Founded in 1914 and recognised as a historic Milanese shop, this optician has served generations of Milanese with precision eyewear and refined service for over a century.

Insider tip: A rare example of traditional optical craftsmanship in the heart of Milan's historic centre.

Libreria Bocca

Address: Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, 12, 20121 Milano

Founded in the early 18th century and recognised as Italy's oldest bookstore, Libreria Bocca remains a cornerstone of Milan's cultural life. Located in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, it feels less like a shop and more like a wunderkammer of ideas, where rare art books and finely printed volumes mingle with contemporary art and curiosities, inviting discovery beyond simple browsing.

Insider tip: Step inside and let your eyes wander — the unexpected juxtapositions of titles, objets, and artworks make every visit feel like an exploratory detour through the history of art and ideas.

Libreria Malavasi

Address: Largo Schuster 1, 20122 Milano

A bookshop specialised in rare books, antique volumes, out-of-print titles, autographs and prints, open since 1939.

Insider tip: Ask for local editions of design and architecture books - their collection is a treasure trove of Milan's cultural heritage.

Profumeria Mazzolari

Address: Corso Monforte 2 (Piazza San Babila), 20122 Milano

Opened in the 1960s, Mazzolari is Milan's historic perfume emporium, home to rare and niche fragrances.

Insider tip: Ask for their exclusive line of Mazzolari scents - quiet luxury bottled.

Antica Barbieria Colla

Address: Via Gerolamo Morone 3, 20121 Milano

Since 1904, this barbershop has served Milan's gentlemen with ritual and refinement; its grooming products are now sold worldwide.

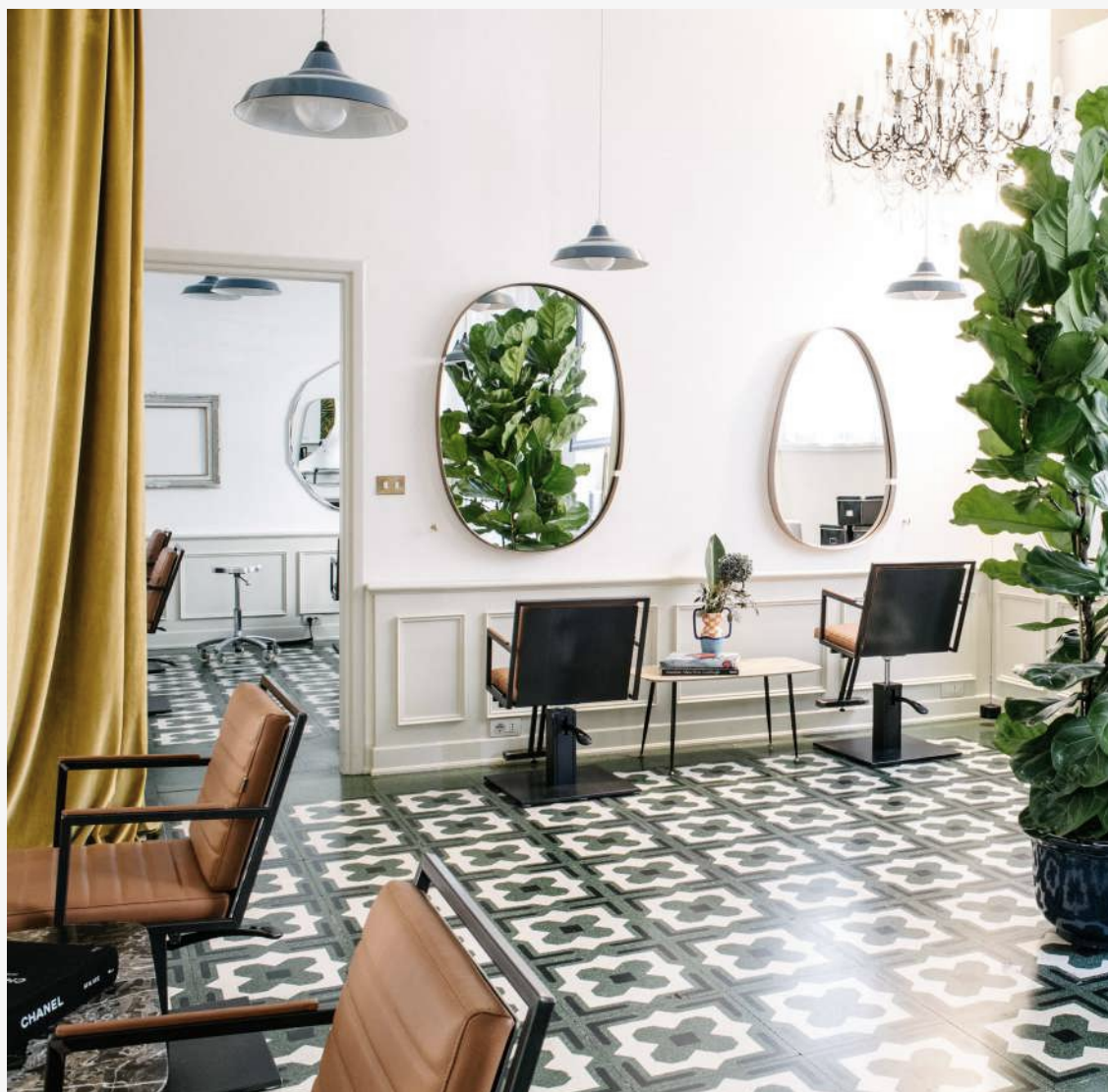
Insider tip: "Go early in the morning - the scent of cologne and shaving soap feels like a century condensed into a single moment." - Luchino Visconti

My Place Hair Studio

Address: Via Bartolomeo Panizza 4, 20144 Milano

My Place Hair Studio is a contemporary hair salon conceived as a space of care, listening, and transformation. Known for its personalised approach, refined technique, and calm atmosphere, it treats hair as an extension of identity — never following trends, always enhancing individuality.

Insider tip: “My Place is where I go when I need clarity as much as a haircut. It’s a space of trust — where listening comes first, and beauty feels aligned, never imposed.” — Helen Nonini



El Barbee

Address: Piazza Lega Lombarda 5, 20154 Milano

Founded in 1936, El Barbee is a Milanese barbershop where tradition and style meet. It preserves the ritual of classic grooming with contemporary sensitivity - a space defined by craftsmanship, warmth, and time well spent.

Insider tip: Luchino Visconti comments “El Barbee isn’t just about a haircut - it’s about slowing down, reconnecting with yourself, and leaving with that quiet Milanese elegance that never fades.”

Antica Farmacia di Brera

Address: Via Fiori Oscuri 3, 20121 Milano

Opened in 1812, Milan’s oldest pharmacy preserves its neoclassical counters and the scent of herbal remedies.

Insider tip: A perfect pause after Brera’s galleries - calm, elegant, authentic.

Antica Farmacia Diana

Address: Piazza Guglielmo Oberdan 4, 20129 Milan

A historic pharmacy near Porta Venezia that seems untouched by time. Behind its original wooden counters and glass jars, Antica Farmacia Diana preserves the quiet elegance of an earlier Milan - where care and beauty are still considered crafts.

Insider tip: Step inside to experience a journey back in time — a place where everything feels as it once was, and the art of taking care retains its old-world grace.

Farmacia Legnani

Address: Via Giovanni Rasori, 2, 20145 Milano

One of the city's few pharmacies with a working galenic laboratory producing bespoke homeopathic formulas.

Insider tip: Ask for their personalised skincare mixes - crafted on site to measure.

Angelo Radaelli Fioraio

Address: Via Alessandro Manzoni 16, 20121 Milano

Founded in 1886, Angelo Radaelli Fioraio is a historic floral boutique in the heart of Milan's fashion district, celebrated for more than a century of artisanal craftsmanship and refined floral design. Passed down through generations, the atelier combines both tradition and contemporary taste. Over the years, it has been treasured by Milanese society and visitors alike for its elegance and enduring quality.

Insider tip: Ask for a seasonal bouquet rather than a specific flower — the result is often more expressive and perfectly attuned to the moment.

Fioraio Bollettini Fiori Michela Pozzato

Address: Via Vincenzo Monti 36, 20123 Milano

A floral atelier where craftsmanship meets poetry. Michela Pozzato's arrangements combine seasonal blooms, natural textures, and a sculptural sense of form - creating compositions that feel spontaneous yet impeccably balanced.

Insider tip: Step inside for a bouquet made with whatever nature offers that day - Michela's creations are at their most beautiful when guided by the season.

Peck

Address: Via Spadari 9, 20123 Milano

Founded in 1883, Peck is Milan's temple of gastronomy - delicatessen, wine cellar and restaurant in one.

Insider tip: Downstairs you'll find the historic gourmet counter - unchanged since the 1950s.

Gastronomia Rossi & Grassi

Addresses: Via Ponte Vetro 4, 20121 Milano | Via Solferino 12, 20121 Milano

A distinctive Milanese gastronomia and delicatessen rooted in the city's culinary tradition. For more than 50 years Rossi & Grassi has combined a meticulous selection of high-quality Italian cold cuts, cheeses, prepared dishes, and artisanal products with professional service and attention to detail. The counters offer a rich daily menu of classic and seasonal options, reflecting both local flavours and broader Italian gastronomy.

Insider tip: Explore the counters slowly and ask for pairing suggestions, the staff's recommendations often reveal combinations and nuances that make Rossi & Grassi more than a simple deli stop.

Numero 9 (fiori)

Address: Via Pastrengo 9, 20159 Milano (Isola)

A floral atelier in the Isola district known for minimal, sculptural compositions and design-forward vases. Discreet, contemporary, and unmistakably Milanese.

Insider tip: Go in the morning - arrangements change daily, and the selection of vessels goes fast.

Frutteto Garibaldi

Address: Corso Garibaldi 18, 20121 Milano

A historic fruit and vegetable shop serving the Brera neighbourhood since the 1940s. With its carefully selected seasonal fruits and vegetables, it embodies the authentic spirit of Milanese neighbourhood commerce.

Insider tip: Stop by mid-morning when the display is at its freshest - a genuine slice of traditional Milanese commerce.

Mercato di San Marco (Thursday Market)

Address: Piazza San Marco, 20121 Milano

Every Thursday morning, the square behind Brera transforms into a market of seasonal produce, flowers and conversation.

Insider tip: Arrive before 10 a.m. to find the best fruit, cheese and small talk - all pure Milanese rhythm.

Ferramenta Spinardi

Address: Corso di Porta Romana 74, 20122 Milano

A historic Milanese hardware store where everyday objects become tools of ingenuity. Spinardi Ferramenta is known for its vast selection of hardware, fittings, and technical essentials — a place where practical knowledge, patience, and human expertise still guide every purchase.

Insider tip: Take a moment to look around before asking for what you need — the layered layout of drawers, shelves, and small compartments is part of the experience, a quiet archive of Milanese craftsmanship worth exploring in itself.

Lavasecco Realstar

Address: Via Sangiorgio Abbondio, 14, 20145 Milano

A trusted dry-cleaner serving the city's elegant wards with meticulous care since the 1960s.

Insider tip: Their attention to fabric makes them the secret behind many impeccable wardrobes.

Tintoria Comolli

Address: Via Cesare Battisti 19, 20122 Milano

A historic dry-cleaning and laundry atelier in Milan's city centre, offers professional textile care with precision and respect for quality. Known for its expertise in delicate fabrics, this atelier combines traditional craftsmanship with modern service.

Insider tip: Step through its doors to experience a calm pause in the city - here, even the most fragile silk or wool is treated with patience and care, as if restoring a memory.

Tintoria Pinuccia

Address: Via Plinio 46, 20129 Milano

Family-run since 1960, specialising in hand finishing and colour restoration for delicate garments.

Insider tip: If in doubt, bring it here, they treat clothes as works of art.

Turi

Address: Via Cerva 19, 20122 Milano

Turi is a modern Milanese artisanal bottega devoted to the art of shoes and leather repair and preservation. With a deep respect for materials and form, the atelier restores shoes and leather goods with precision and discretion — extending their life while honouring their original character.

Insider tip: Bring a well-worn pair rather than something new — TUri's craftsmanship reveals itself best in the quiet transformation of objects already rich with stories.

Artisans & Makers

Places where things are crafted by hand: tailoring, hats, fabrics, ceramics, wood, leather, paper.

Asnaghi Tessuti

Address: Via della Moscova 68, 20121 Milano

Founded in 1939, this family-run fabric store supplies some of Milan's best tailors and interior designers. Shelves of silks and wools evoke a quiet, timeless Milan.

Insider tip: Step inside to feel the city's discreet sense of craftsmanship and continuity.

Fornace Curti

Address: Via Walter Tobagi 8, 20139 Milano

Dating back to 1400, this ceramics workshop and open-air museum still fires terracotta using traditional methods.

Insider tip: Call ahead - the guided visit to its historic kiln is a hidden gem.

Francesco Maglia Milano - Ombrelli dal 1854

Address: Via Giuseppe Ripamonti 194, 20141 Milano

Founded in 1854, Ombrelleria Francesco Maglia is one of the world's oldest umbrella makers and a living symbol of Milanese craftsmanship. Each umbrella is still handmade using traditional techniques, with precious woods, natural horn, and carefully selected fabrics. More than an accessory, every piece is designed to last a lifetime, an object where function, beauty, and heritage are inseparable.

Insider tip: Step inside and let your eyes wander through drawers and shelves lined with wood, fabrics, and old tools, it's in the rhythm of making that you truly feel the craft come alive.

Alvisi Milano

Address: Via Mameli 24, 20129 Milano

A small shoe-repair and customisation atelier beloved for its craftsmanship and patina expertise.

Insider tip: Bring your old leather - they'll make it look better than new.

Pettinaroli Milano

Address: Via Brera 4, 20121 Milano

A stationery and map shop founded in 1881, where hand-pressed paper and engraved cards speak of another time.

Insider tip: A perfect stop after Brera's galleries to find a timeless Milanese souvenir.

Telerie Spadari Milano

Address: Via Spadari 13, 20123 Milano

Fine house linens since 1946, serving generations of Milanese families with classic Italian textiles.

Insider tip: Their embroidered napkins make the perfect souvenir of Milan's domestic elegance.

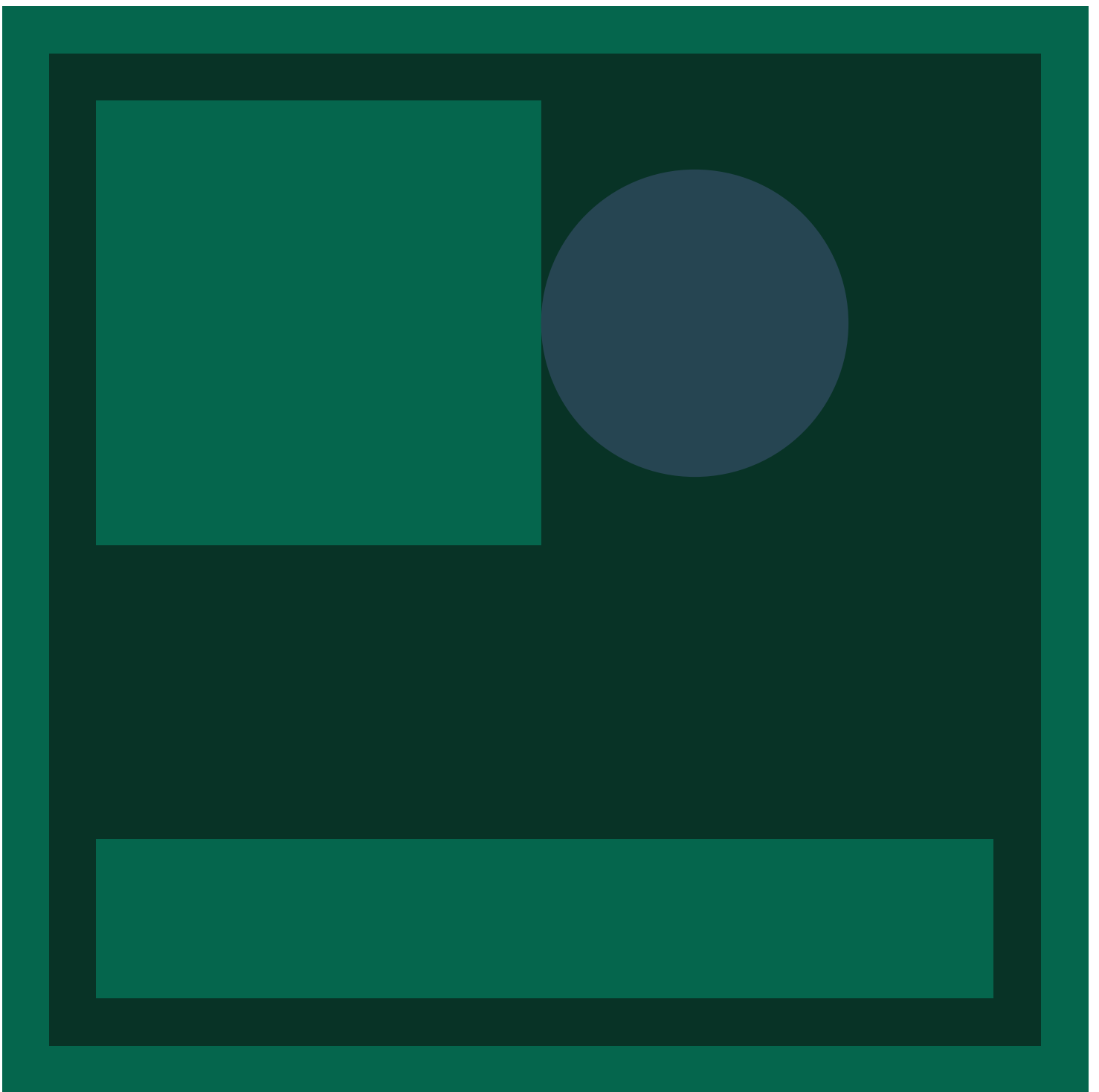


Ceratina

Address: Via Meravigli 12, 20123 Milano

A tiny boutique dedicated to beeswax candles and aromas since 1919. Warm light and scent blend into a peaceful ritual.

Insider tip: Their hand-poured beeswax candles make perfect gifts that blend tradition with everyday elegance.



Cultural Spaces

Milan's cultural life unfolds in spaces where thought, beauty, and creativity converge - galleries tucked into courtyards, libraries holding centuries of knowledge, gardens where silence speaks louder than words.

These are not monuments to be visited but living rooms of the city's soul: intimate, unexpected, and generously open to those who seek more than the surface. Here, culture is not performed but quietly inhabited.

Circolo Filologico Milanese

Address: Via Clerici 10, 20121 Milano

An architectural and intellectual landmark, the Circolo Filologico Milanese embodies Milan's quiet devotion to culture. Behind its neoclassical façade lies a world of books, lectures, and timeless conversation - a sanctuary for the curious mind.

Insider tip: Helen Nonini's hidden Milan cultural institution founded in 1872 and dedicated to the study of languages, literature and the art of conversation. "It's my refuge in Milan where time expands, and the sound of pages and voices replaces the city's noise."



@Francesco Dolfo Photography

Gardens of Villa Reale

Address: Via Palestro, 16, 20121 Milano

Designed in 1793 by Leopold Pollack as Milan's first English-style garden, winding paths lead past a pond, small bridges, and grottos, punctuating the romantic landscape.

Insider tip: Carolina Fumagalli loves organizing her daughters' birthday parties here - "From the street you can't see them, but once inside you discover a perfectly kept garden with a pond, animals, and corners filled with beautiful sculptures."

Giardini Perego

Address: Via dei Giardini, 7/9, 20121 Milano

Milan's smallest public park, originally created in the early 1800s for the noble Perego family. What remains of the once-vast English-style garden is an intimate green oasis featuring centuries-old trees, and a statue of Vertunno, the Roman god of gardens.

Insider tip: Sava Bisazza Terracini Visconti discovered this hidden gem in her early Milan days: "In my early days in Milan, I loved reading at Giardini Perego. Once part of a larger private garden, it was expropriated during the early 20th century, and what remains is the perfect escape from the city's noise."

Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense

Address: Via Brera 28, 20121 Milano

Founded in 1770 by Empress Maria Teresa and opened to the public in 1786, the Braidense is one of Italy's most important libraries. Housed in the magnificent Palazzo di Brera, it holds over 1.5 million volumes.

Insider tip: Maurizio Stocchetto & Pia Bianchi describe it as "a jewel designed by Piermarini that holds more than a million books - a refined historical treasure that often hosts beautiful exhibitions."

Galleria Clio Calvi Rudy Volpi

Address: Via Pontaccio, 17, 20121 Milano

A historic gallery in the Brera Design District that has been a meeting point for artists and designers for over thirty years. Specializing in contemporary design and eclectic works, it showcases collaborations with renowned designers like Andrea Branzi and Ettore Sottsass.

Insider tip: Luisa Delle Piane & Marco Lotito call it "a magical space for us, always poetic, cultured, and full of surprise" - the perfect blend of design, art, and unexpected discoveries.

Cloisters of Santa Maria delle Grazie

Address: Piazza di Santa Maria delle Grazie 2, 20123 Milano

The Renaissance cloisters of this UNESCO World Heritage site include the celebrated Chiostro delle Rane (Cloister of the Frogs), dating from the late 15th century and designed by Bramante. The peaceful atmosphere offers a moment of contemplation steps away from Leonardo's Last Supper.

Insider tip: Emanuele Pennisi recommends visiting "especially in February, when the magnolias are in bloom" - a rare moment of beauty in the hidden heart of Renaissance Milan.



Giardini Indro Montanelli (known as Giardini di Porta Venezia to locals)

Address: Via Palestro 14, 20121 Milano

Milan's first public park, inaugurated in 1784 by the Austrian administration. This green lung features centuries-old trees, winding paths, ponds, and important buildings including the Natural History Museum and the Planetarium. Renamed in 2002 to honour journalist Indro Montanelli, who walked here daily.

Insider tip: Maria Cristina Didero visits often with her daughters: "From autumn foliage to the Christmas fair, from the old carousel to the small train and the traces of the former zoo - these gardens challenge the cliché of Milan as a grey city."



Villa Necchi Campiglio

Address: Via Mozart 14, 20122 Milano

A masterpiece of 1930s Art Deco architecture designed by Piero Portaluppi for the Necchi Campiglio family. This perfectly preserved villa features rationalist design with sumptuous interiors, a hidden garden, tennis court, and Milan's first private swimming pool.

Insider tip: Gabriele Pennisi loves it because "it reflects my favourite period - the Art Deco era - and because it doesn't feel like a city house but a countryside villa, thanks to its garden filled with trees and flowers, and its swimming pool."



Orto Botanico di Brera

Address: Via Festa del Perdono 7, 20122 Milan

Founded in the late 18th century under the patronage of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, the Orto Botanico di Brera is one of Milan's most enchanting green spaces. Originally created for the study of medicinal plants and the teaching of pharmacy and medicine, it now serves as a living museum where lush beds of herbs, centenarian trees, and rare species create a peaceful counterpoint to the urban surroundings.

Insider tip: Discover the garden in every season — whether it's the vibrant blooms of spring, the mellow greens of summer, the warm hues of autumn, or the serene silhouettes of winter branches, each visit reveals a new chapter of nature's rhythm hidden in the heart of the city.



Civico Planetario Ulrico Hoepli

Address: Corso Venezia 57, 20121 Milano

Built in 1930 in neoclassical style by architect Piero Portaluppi and donated to Milan by publisher Ulrico Hoepli. Italy's largest planetarium features a 19.6-meter dome and seats 375 visitors. It hosts an intense program of astronomical education and public observations.

Insider tip: Enrica Cavarzan & Marco Zavagno describe it as “a magical space with its 20-metre dome, 1960s projector, and timeless design” - built almost a century ago in rationalist style yet still captivating.

Clara playground

Address: Corso Garibaldi, 27, 20121 Milano

A neighbourhood playground tucked just off Corso Garibaldi in the Brera district. This small green space serves as a meeting point for local families, offering a quiet retreat where children can play while parents connect in one of Milan's most vibrant areas.

Insider tip: Eleni Petaloti calls it “our little meeting place in the city, where we reconnect with our children between work and share playful moments whenever we're in town.”

Piazza Mirabello

Address: Piazza Carlo Mirabello, 20121 Milano

An elegant residential square in the Brera district, dominated by a striking 1960s modernist building designed by Italian-Norwegian architect Jan Andrea Battistoni. The square preserves an intimate, quiet character - a hidden corner of architectural quality where historic and modern Milan coexist harmoniously.

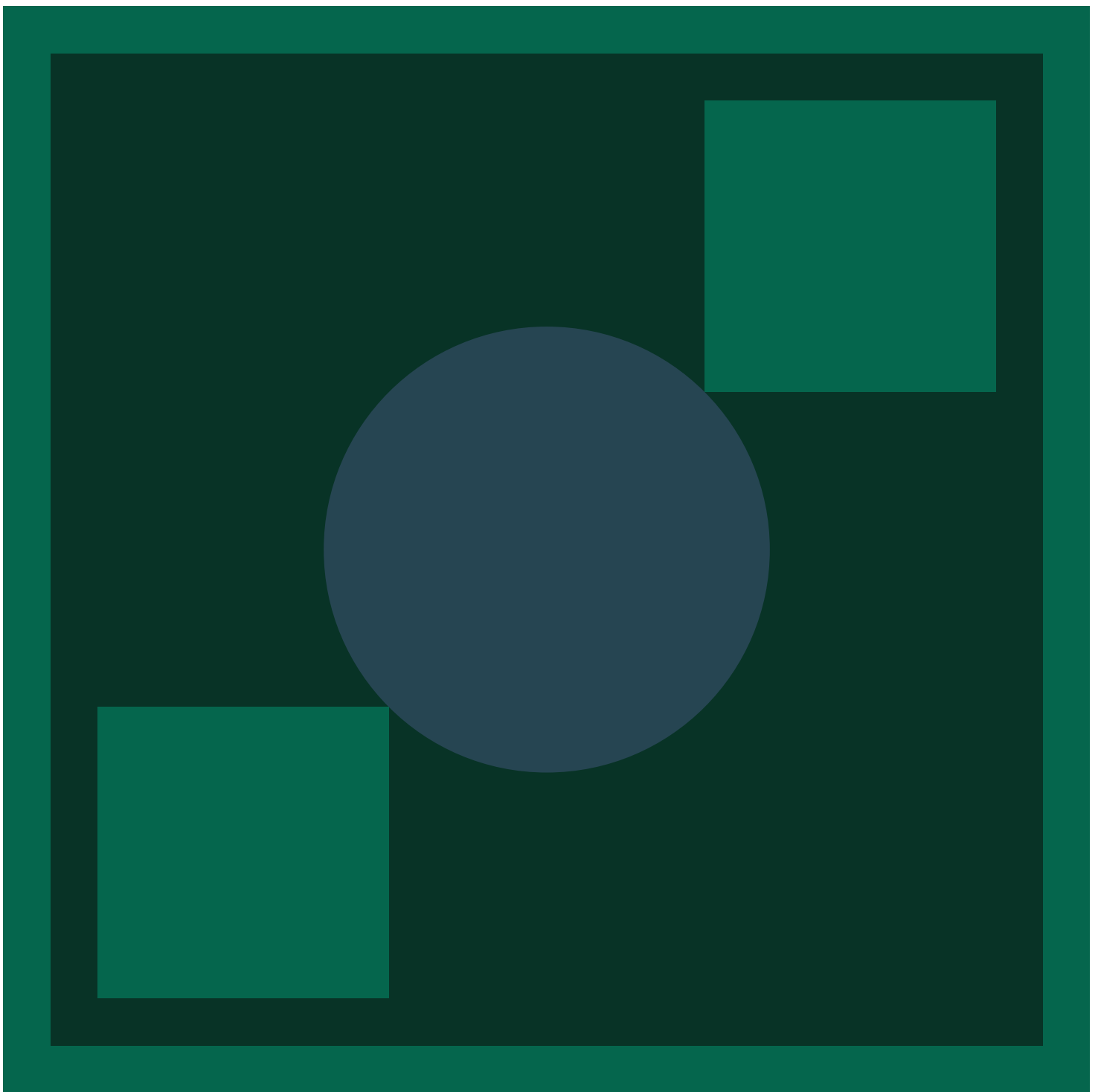
Insider tip: Architect Luciano Giorgi, whose studio is at number 1, treasures his daily ritual: "Each morning, as I arrive, I look through the trees at the beautiful surrounding architecture - and sometimes I remember seeing, La Scala's prima ballerina Carla Fracci, dressed in white, passing through the doorway of her home nearby."

Open-air rooftop of the Rinascente car park

Address: Via Agnello 13, 20121 Milano

The seventh-floor food hall and rooftop terrace of Milan's iconic department store offers the most intimate views of the Duomo's spires and the Madonnina. Multiple restaurants and bars provide panoramic dining and drinks from morning to late evening, making it a democratic luxury - spectacular views accessible to all.

Insider tip: Guido Daminelli loves it because "it offers a spectacular and unexpected view of the Duomo's spires and surrounding palazzi. Even though it's right in the city centre, it feels private and almost suspended - and there's always space."



Services

In Milan, service is an art of discretion - a quiet rhythm of care that unfolds behind the scenes. From bespoke catering to floral design, from table setting to the smallest hidden details, these gestures hold the secret of what truly works: attention without display, elegance without effort.

Giorgia Cantarini

Address: IG @giorgiacantarini - WEB giorgiacantarini.com

Giorgia Cantarini is a Milan-based fashion stylist and editor with international experience across publishing, consulting, and buying. She has worked with leading titles such as L'Officiel, Vogue Italia, i-D, Grazia and Rolling Stone, and has styled global artists including Lenny Kravitz, Kit Harington, Rita Ora, Ellie Goulding and Peggy Gou. She also consults for brands and emerging designers, with a strong focus on contemporary and sustainable fashion.

Insider note: "Thanks to Giorgia, my wardrobe has become functional and intentional purchase aligned with an image that feels consistently coherent and contemporary." Helen Nonini



Plates Tables and More

Address: IG @platestablesandmore

Plates Tables and More offers “Exclusive Tableware Consultations & Floral Design Experiences”, providing personalized guidance and private visits to select tableware boutiques curated for each client. Participants are then invited to continue the experience in the PTM studio through intimate floral design sessions. Whether creating a bespoke centrepiece or a lush bouquet, every detail is guided with care - a service designed for individuals or small groups, to bring the perfect tablescape to life.

Insider tip: Helen Nonini says “What I love most about Plates Tables and More is the ritual it creates - the pause before a dinner, the beauty of a gesture, the dialogue between flowers, textures, and light. It’s not just about setting a table, it’s about composing an atmosphere.”



Serena Barbieri SRL Catering

Address: IG @serenabarbieri_catering

A full-service, sophisticated catering and event-planning company celebrated for tailor-made soirées, creative menus and elegant all-round set-ups - from the food to florals and décor.

Insider tip: When hosting something special, request an “in-home dinner” setup - the team turns any space into a refined, intimate dining experience.



Fazzi Real Estate

Address: Via Bigli 24, 20121 Milano

Founded by Simona Fazzi, Fazzi Real Estate reflects Milan's quiet elegance - a way of treating space as culture and architecture as narrative. More than an international real estate agency, it curates stories of light, proportion, and human presence across the city's most timeless addresses.



Valextra