



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.

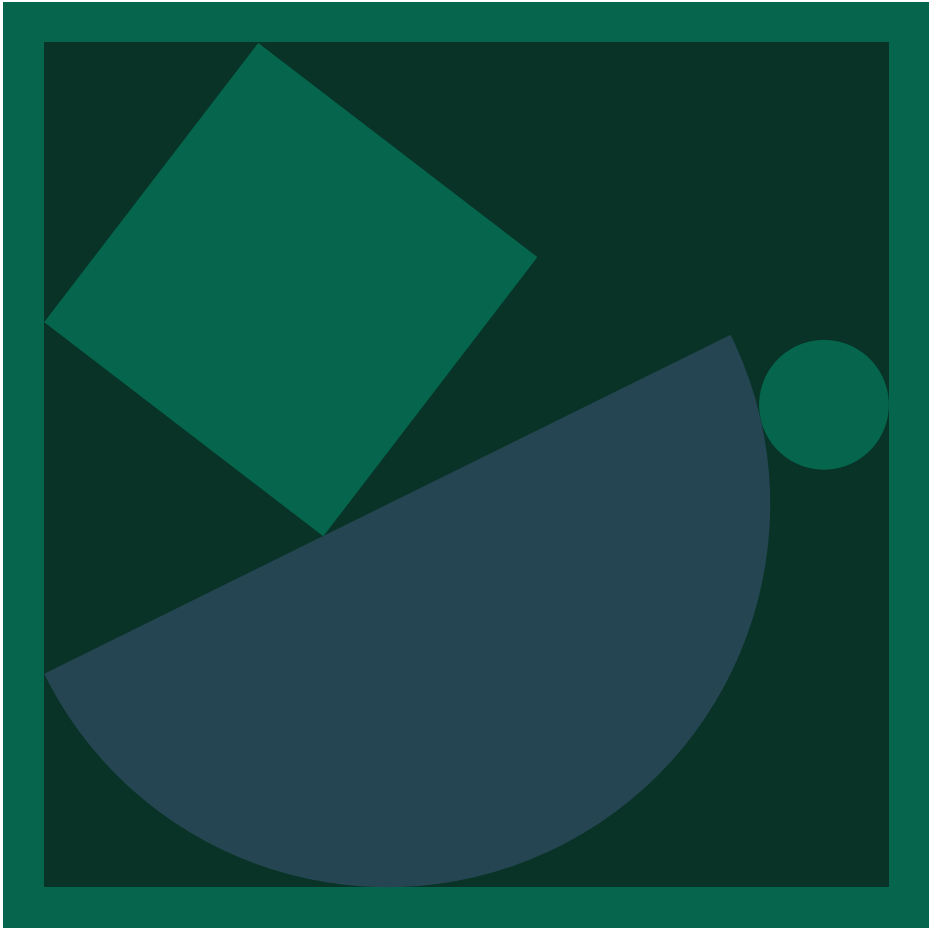
Index

Cafés & Bars	7
Restaurants & Trattorias	11
Shop & Artisans	17
Cultural Spaces	27
Services	33

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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.

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 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.”

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

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 Montnapoleone address.

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.

Nino Osteria

Address: Via Nino Bixio 47, 20129 Milano

Nino Osteria is 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.

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 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.

Sandì

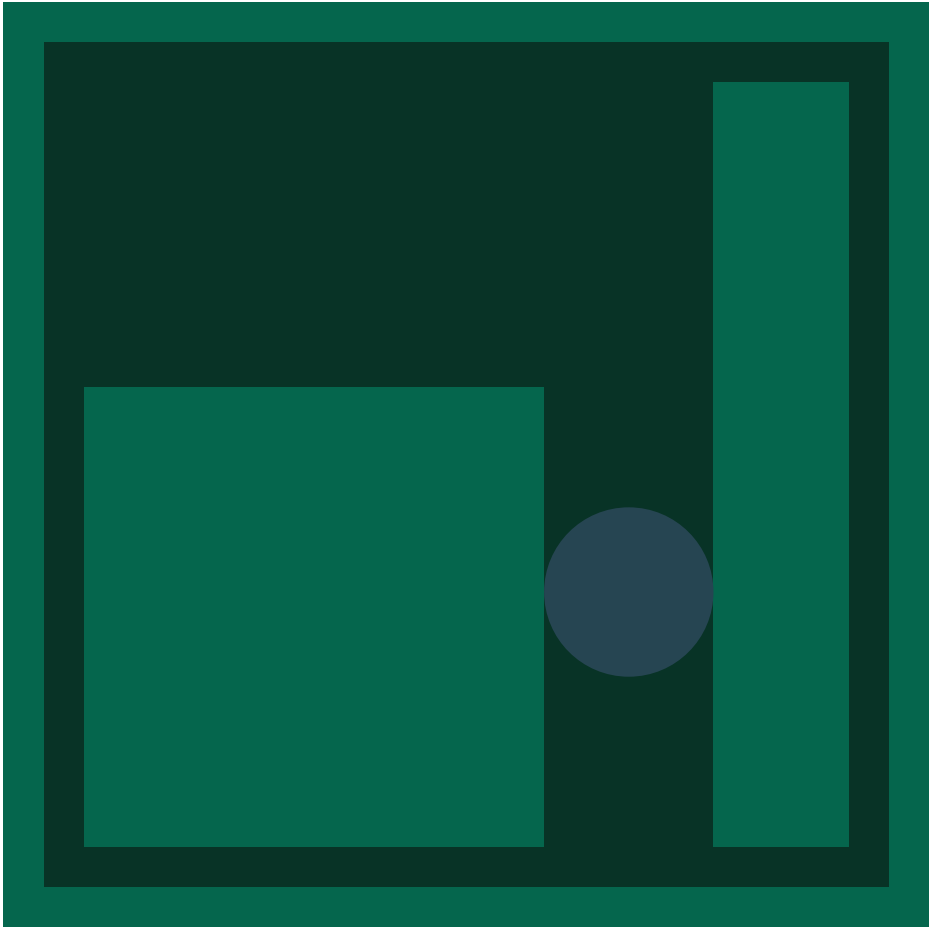
Address: Via Francesco Hayez 13, 20129 Milano

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.

Restaurants & Trattorias





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.

Shops & Artisans



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

Shops & Artisans



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.

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.

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.

Artisans & Makers

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

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.

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.

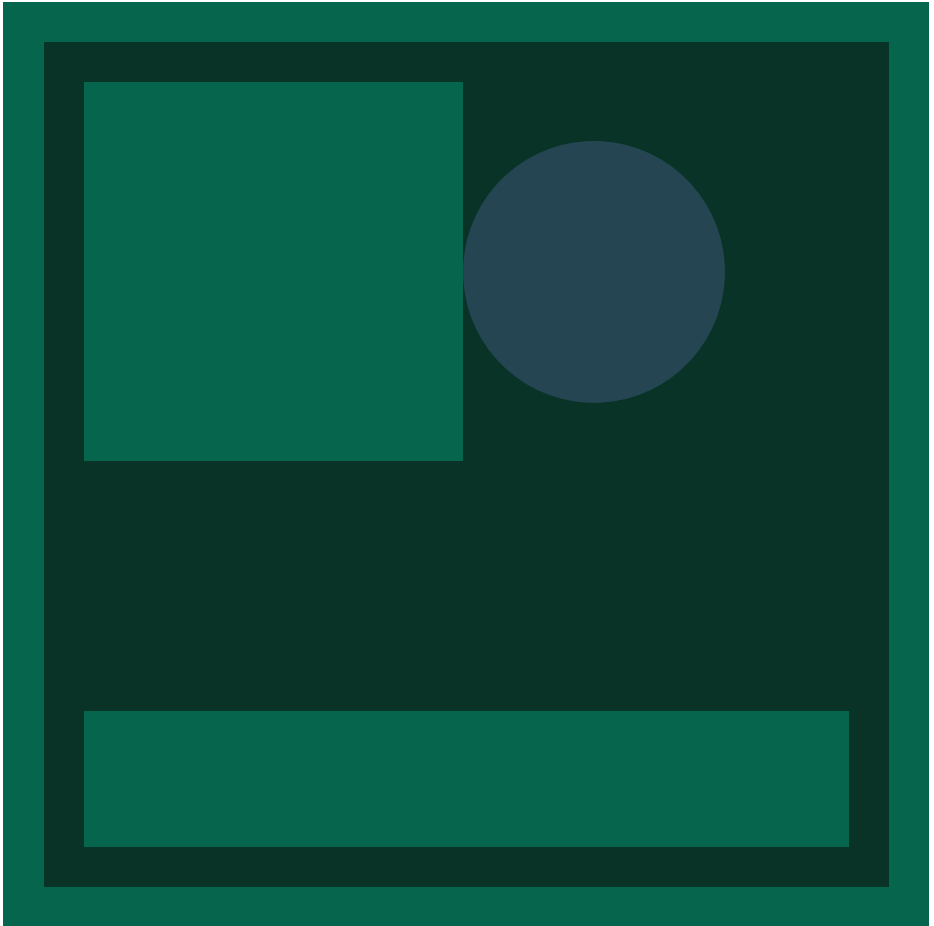
Telerie Spadari Milano

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.





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



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.”

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.



Orto Botanico di Brera

Address: Via Festa del Perdono 7, 20122 Milano

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.

Cultural Spaces



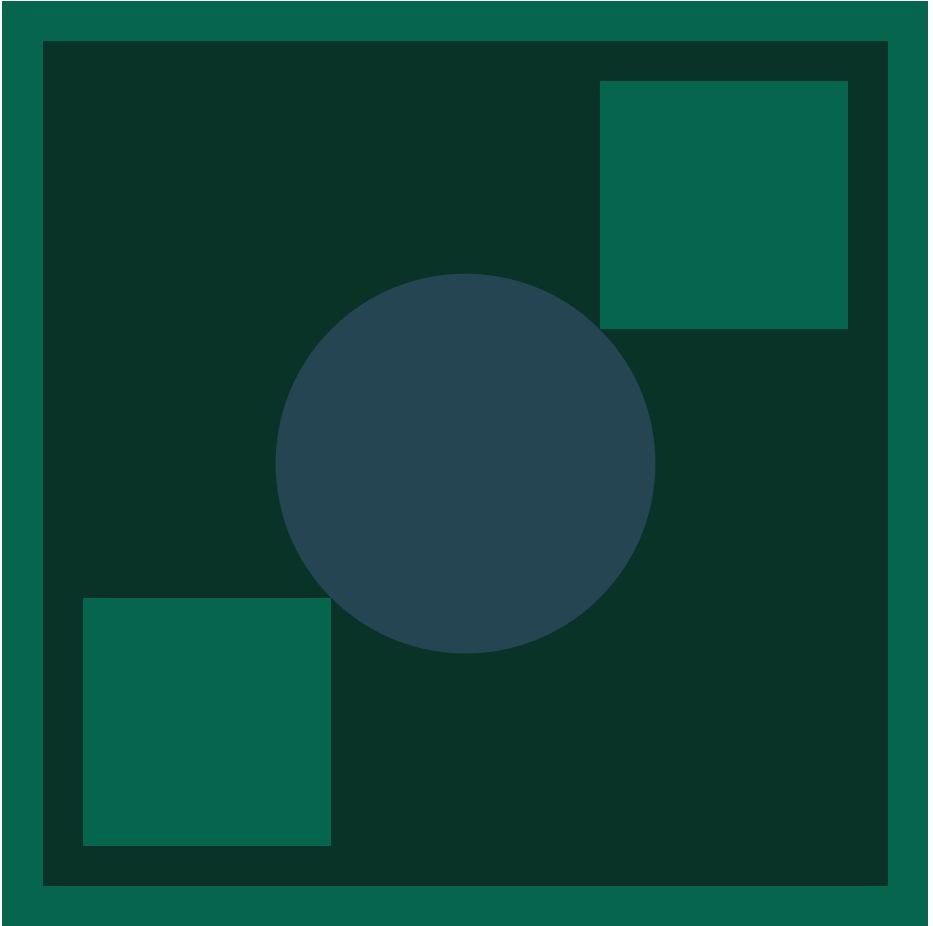
Villa Necchi Campiglio

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."





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

Services



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.

Services



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.



Services

2026

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