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City focus special

My Milan



Kathryn Tomasetti spoke to **Gianluca Fratantonio**, specialist in the restoration of frescoes, for a local's take on northern Italy's cultural capital >>



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Clockwise from left: Join Milan's fashion designers at Frip, picking up edgy pieces from hip labels such as ACNE; City life centres around the Piazza del Duomo, with its magnificent cathedral; Occupying the shell of the Palazzo dell'Arengario, Museo del Novecento tells the story of modern art in the city; La Vineria sells *vino sfuso* (wine from the tap) at exceedingly drinkable prices



There may be other Italian cities that boast more in the way of obvious tourist magnets, but for cutting-edge fashion, design and architecture, the smart traveller looks to Milan. And with a local to show you around, you'll soon discover that this style city's beauty is much more than skin deep.

Day One

■ **9:00** Milanese find it almost impossible to start the day without an espresso – for Italy's finest, pop into **Gran Caffè Cimmino** (2 Via Larga, tel. +39 02 805 1663). We're not big on breakfast, usually pairing our caffeine kick-start with a simple pastry – try a brioche stuffed with apricot jam.

■ **9:30** Stroll over to **Università Statale** (7 Via Festa del Perdono), Milan's university, where students bustle through cloisters and the remnants of Roman ruins. The sprawling structure used to be a hospital and the core of Sforzinda, a 15th-century attempt by the city's nobles to construct a utopia.

■ **10:30** **Piazza del Duomo** is crowned by the world's second largest Catholic cathedral. It's also home to my favourite second-hand shop, **Humana Vintage** (3 Via Cappellari), where you can find designer clothes at bargain prices – cast-offs from the wealthy residents of this chic neighbourhood. I picked up a Valentino top here for just €7.

■ **12:00** The city's newest museum, **Museo del Novecento** (Palazzo dell'Arengario, Piazza del Duomo, museodelnovecento.org), is fantastic. It holds international artworks by the likes of Picasso and Matisse, but it's the 20th-century Italian art collection that really shines. I like the fact that you can see Italian art that is not typical – the works here have links to design and fashion. After taking your fill of culture, head upstairs for a light lunch in the panoramic, 1920s-style café – you'll feel as if you're dining inside an old Orient Express train car.

■ **15:00** The **Colonne di San Lorenzo** (Corso di Porta Ticinese) sits at the heart of Milan's ancient Roman quarter. I love the integration of contemporary life – such as the tram that



IMAGE:ALAMY



IMAGE GETTY IMAGES



MAP ILLUSTRATION DAVID MCCUTCHEON/DIVIDMAPS.CO.UK

“ I love the integration of contemporary life – such as the tram that whizzes by – with Milan’s ancient Roman ruins

whizzes by – with this neighbourhood’s centuries-old ruins. Opposite the columns, **Frip** (16 Corso di Porta Ticinese) stocks clothes by underground labels – Milanese fashion designers tend to shop here. If the weather’s fine, you could also take a wander in the nearby pretty **Parco della Basilica**. ■ **17:00** For serious shoppers, **Corso di Porta Ticinese** is littered with vintage shops, boutiques and hip brands – including **Stussy** at 103. At its southern end, the **Basilica di Sant’Eustorgio** (Piazza Sant’Eustorgio)

houses a beautiful chapel with 15th-century frescoes, a creepy crypt, and the purported preserved relics of the Three Wise Men. ■ **19:00** Enjoy an early dinner at **Fish Point** (Piazza XXIV Maggio, corner of Viale Gorizia), a kiosk surrounded by a cluster of locals-only picnic tables. I recommend the *fritto misto* (selection of fried fish) and a glass of crisp white wine; it’s amazing value. ■ **20:00** You’re then steps away from the **Navigli**, a lively neighbourhood crisscrossed by canals and dotted with quirky bars.

La Vineria (4 Via Casale, la-vineria.it) sells wine sourced from Italian farmers at just €1 a glass; **Capetown** (3 Via Vigevano) is a meeting point for local artists; and **Rita** (1 Via Angelo Fumagalli) boasts great cocktails and a DJ. If you’re still hungry, head to **Luca e Andrea** (34 Alzaia Naviglio Grande, tel. +39 02 5810 1142, lucaeandranavigli.com), where the copious free evening nibbles often include *risotto alla Milanese* (saffron-infused rice) and *melanzane parmigiana* (baked aubergine, tomatoes and cheese). ➤



IMAGE: GIORGIO MARINO

Day Two

■ **9:00** Part deli, part classy old bar, **Torrefazione Il Caffè Ambrosiano** (20 Corso Buenos Aires) in the northeast of the city makes a lovely spot for breakfast. Afterwards, check out the nearby **Casa Galimberti** (3 Via Malpighi), one of the finest of Milan's beautiful art nouveau buildings. Its exterior is decorated with hand-painted tiles depicting men and women of the era, Japanese-inspired flowers and bamboo.

■ **10:30** Not many visitors know that **Villa Necchi Campiglio** (12 Via Mozart) was a set for the 2009 film *I Am Love*, starring Tilda Swinton. The villa is a stunning example of the austere Milanese architecture and design of the 1930s. It's open to the public, but call in advance for a guided tour – you'll see everything from the beautiful foyer and dining room to wardrobes stacked with servants' uniforms.



Not many visitors know that Villa Necchi Campiglio was a set for the film *I Am Love*

■ **13:00** Hop in a taxi and head over to **Luini** (16 Via Santa Radegonda, tel. +39 02 8646 1917) for lunch. This spot is a Milanese institution, and locals grow up on Luini's *panzarotti*; pockets of fried pizza dough stuffed with tomato and mozzarella. Inside it's standing room only, but the benches in Piazza San Fedele are perfect for enjoying an *al fresco* lunch.

■ **14:00** From here you're just minutes away from the city's famous fashion quarter, the **Quadrilatero d'Oro**. The Via della Spiga and





Clockwise from above: Savini offers opulent dining as well as a patisserie and food shop; Enjoy aperitivo hour in style at Zucca; Casa Galimberti is a fine example of the city's art nouveau splendour; Villa Necchi Campiglio was an architectural showpiece for sewing-machine moguls the Necchi family

Gianluca Fratantonio is also the creator of *Dirt* (ideaswithnofuture.blogspot.com)

Via Montenapoleone wind their way through the neighbourhood, studded with Milanese superstars such as Dolce & Gabbana, Versace and Prada. If these designer threads are too pricey, check out **DMagazine** (26 Via Montenapoleone), which stocks labels from the previous season – I recently bought a pair of Dries Van Noten trousers for €70.

■ **17:00 Teatro alla Scala** (2 Via Filodrammatici, teatroallascala.org) is arguably the most famous opera house in the world. Aficionados can tour the museum then duck into the new shop, where opera CDs, librettos and antique posters of past Scala operas are on sale.

■ **19:00 Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** is a beautiful example of late 19th-century architecture. It's known as Milan's *salotto* (living room), as locals love to stroll under its domed arcades, protected from inclement weather. Nearby, the atmospheric **Zucca**

(21 Piazza del Duomo), named for a local rhubarb-based drink, dates from the 1920s. Make like a Milanese and have a *zucca aperitivo* at the bar, where bow-tied waiters serve classy nibbles such as vol-au-vents and olives under colourful mosaics.

■ **20:30** For dinner, an extravagant option is the newly reopened **Savini** (Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, 5 Via Ugo Foscolo, tel. +39 02 7200 3433, savinimilano.it), among the most prestigious restaurants in Milan. Alternatively, the **Horse Café** (21 Viale Montenero, tel. +39 02 5501 2069, accessible by taxi), which mixes delicious northern and southern Italian cuisine – such as Trentino beef with Sicilian raisins – is one of my favourite dining spots.

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FR Mon parcours de Milan

Kathryn Tomasetti demande à **Gianluca Fratantonio**, spécialiste de restauration de fresques, de nous emmener au cœur de la capitale culturelle du nord de l'Italie

Jour 1 9:00 Les Milanais démarrent la journée par un espresso – essayez le **Gran Caffè Cimmino** (2 Via Larga)... **9:30** Promenez-vous jusqu'à l'**Università Statale** (7 Via Festa del Perdono), où les étudiants s'affairent au milieu de ruines romaines... **10:30** La **Piazza del Duomo** abrite la seconde plus grande cathédrale du monde – et le magasin de seconde main **Humana Vintage**... **12:00** Le **Museo del Novecento** (Piazza del Duomo) possède une fabuleuse collection d'art italien du 20^{ème} siècle. Allez à l'étage pour déjeuner... **15:00** La **Colonne di San Lorenzo** (Corso di Porta Ticinese) trône dans l'ancien quartier romain de Milan... **17:00** Le **Corso di Porta Ticinese** déborde de boutiques tendances. La **Basilica di Sant'Eustorgio** (Piazza Sant'Eustorgio) renferme les supposées reliques des Rois Mages... **19:00** Dînez dans la petite arrière salle du **Fish Point** (Piazza XXIV Maggio)... **20:00** **Navigli** est animé avec ses bars trendy, comme **La Vineria** (4 Via Casale) ou **Capetown** (3 Via Vigevano).

Jour 2 9:00 Mi-épicerie, mi-bar classique, le **Torrefazione Il Caffè Ambrosiano** (20 Corso Buenos Aires) est un lieu agréable pour petit-déjeuner... **10:30** La **Villa Necchi Campiglio** (12 Via Mozart) est emblématique de l'austère architecture milanaise de 1930... **13:00** Sautez dans un taxi jusque chez **Luini** (16 Via Santa Radegonda) pour des *panzarotti*, des beignets fourrés... **14:00** **Quadrilatero d'Oro** est le fameux quartier de la mode de Milan. Le **DMagazine** (26 Via Montenapoleone) stocke des marques de la saison précédente... **17:00** Le **Teatro alla Scala** (2 Via Filodrammatici) est sans conteste le plus célèbre opéra du monde... **19:00** La **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** est un magnifique exemple de l'architecture de la fin du 19^{ème} siècle. Au **Zucca** (21 Piazza del Duomo), faites comme les Milanais et prenez un *aperitivo* au bar... **20:30** Vous avez deux options pour le dîner : l'exorbitant **Savini** (Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II) ou le **Horse Café** (21 Viale Montenero), un de mes favoris.

NL Mijn Milaan

Kathryn Tomasetti sprak met local **Gianluca Fratantonio** en deed heel wat insider tips op om Milaan te ontdekken

Dag 1 9:00 Start de dag met een espresso in **Gran Caffè Cimmino** (2 Via Larga)... **9:30** Wandel naar de **Università Statale** (7 Via Festa del Perdono)... **10:30** **Piazza del Duomo** herbergt 's werelds tweede grootste kathedraal – alsook een tweedehandswinkel **Humana Vintage**... **12:00** Bezoek het **Museo del Novecento** (Piazza del Duomo) en lunch op de bovenverdieping... **15:00** De **Colonne di San Lorenzo** (Corso di Porta Ticinese) bevindt zich in de oude Romeinse wijk van Milaan... **17:00** **Corso di Porta Ticinese** is bezaaid met trendy boetieks. Bezoek de **Basilica di Sant'Eustorgio** (Piazza Sant'Eustorgio)... **19:00** Dineer in het gezellige **Fish Point** (Piazza XXIV Maggio)... **20:00** **Navigli** barst van de eigenzinnige bars – ga langs bij **La Vineria** (4 Via Casale) of **Capetown** (3 Via Vigevano).

Dag 2 9:00 **Torrefazione Il Caffè Ambrosiano** (20 Corso Buenos Aires) is dé plek bij uitstek om te ontbijten... **10:30** **Villa Necchi Campiglio** (12 Via Mozart): een schitterend voorbeeld van de sobere Milanese architectuur... **13:00** Neem een taxi naar **Luini** (16 Via Santa Radegonda) en bestel als lunch *panzarotti*; gevuld, gebakken pizzadeeg... **14:00** Milaans bekende modeparadijs is **Quadrilatero d'Oro**. Bezoek de outlet **DMagazine** (26 Via Montenapoleone)... **17:00** **Teatro alla Scala** (2 Via Filodrammatici) is ongetwijfeld 's werelds bekendste opera... **19:00** Struin rond in de **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II**. Neem een aperitief aan de bar bij **Zucca** (21 Piazza del Duomo)... **20:30** Sluit af met een diner in het extravagante **Savini** (Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II). **Horse Café** (21 Viale Montenero) is ook een aanrader.

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