

TEN ORIGINAL (AND ALTERNATIVE) SUGGESTIONS TO VISIT MILAN



Leonardo's vineyard

That Leonardo da Vinci's life is closely linked to the city of Milan is well known, but few people know about this fascinating place. In 1498 Ludovico il Moro, Duke of Milan, gave Leonardo da Vinci a vineyard that the artist was particularly fond of. The vineyard was located in the middle of the fields near to the Atellani House, a Renaissance house, that was later beautifully transformed by the architect Pietro Portaluppi. With the bombings of World War II, the vineyard had been buried by rubble and traces of its existence had been lost. With a great deal of recovery and research work, the vineyard was rediscovered and, thanks to studies in botanical genetics, it was replanted exactly as it was. For the visit to the vineyard and the magnificent Atellani House, see:

<https://www.vignadileonardo.com/it>



San Bernardino alle Ossa

Thousands of skulls of all sizes fill the chapel of San Bernardino alle Ossa. In 1642 the church tower collapsed and so many bones were found in the foundation. These were then used as rococo decorations. It is said that the bones here are of saints and to martyrs, but it is more likely that they are of people who died in the hospital that was located nearby in the Middle Ages. An ancient legend has it that the bones of a little girl, placed to the left of the altar, come back to life every November 2, dragging all the other skeletons behind them in a sort of macabre dance.

For more information:

<https://www.sanbernardinoalleossa.it/>



The National Museum of Science and Technology "Leonardo da Vinci"

Inaugurated on February 15, 1953 the Museum is one of the main technical-scientific museums in Europe. The Museum acts in the service of society to promote, disseminate and make accessible the technical-scientific culture in all its manifestations, implications and interactions with other sectors of knowledge and society. Great emphasis is placed on communicating worldwide the work of Leonardo da Vinci in the historical and social context of the time, his relations with nature and art, the legacy of his research method in contemporary society. We particularly suggest a visit to the very rich section on transportations and to the Enrico Toti, the first submarine built in Italy after WWII.

For more information:

<https://www.museoscienza.org/en>



San Sepolcro church

Perhaps not everyone knows that Milan also preserves some vestiges of the Roman ages, when the city was called Mediolanum. The Forum of the Roman city is located where the Ambrosian Library and Stock Exchange are today, and it was here that a church dedicated to the Holy Trinity was built in 1030. In this church there is an underground part (crypt), under the street level, where a copy of Christ's tomb was placed during the Middle Ages. Here was identified the exact point of the geographical centre of the city, right on the still existing pavement of the Roman forum.

For more information:

<https://www.ambrosiana.it/chi-siamo/gli-altri-volti-dellambrosiana/san-sepolcro/>

San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore The Sistine Chapel of Milan



The church of San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore, built on the remains of Roman buildings and also known as the Sistine Chapel of Milan, was built in 1503 by two important architects, Dolcebuono and Amadeo, who were also active in the construction site of Milan Cathedral, Santa Maria delle Grazie, Santa Maria presso San Celso and at the Certosa di Pavia. Since the Carolingian age, the church housed the nuns of the Benedictine order, a destination that is evident in the original layout of the interior spaces. It is in fact a rectangular plan divided in half by a frescoed wall: one half had public use and was frequented by the ordinary faithful, while the other was accessible only to nuns who were not allowed to cross its boundaries. Today the monastery can be visited in its entirety and features beautiful 16th-century frescoes, including many from the workshop of Bernardino Luini and others painted by Boltraffio, a pupil of Leonardo, Vincenzo Foppa, the Campi brothers and Simone Peterzano, the master of Caravaggio.

For more information:

<https://www.museoarcheologicomilano.it/oltre-il-museo/la-chiesa-s.-maurizio-al-monastero-maggiore>

Milan, capital of the Roman Empire



Milan was the capital of the Roman Empire from 284 to 402 AD. Despite numerous destructions and reconstructions over the centuries, the city still retains striking vestiges of that era. In particular, two towers of the imperial city wall are preserved in the archaeological museum area. From this place, it is possible to walk an evocative itinerary to the rediscovery of the remains and monuments of Roman and early Christian Milan, among which the basilica of Sant'Ambrogio and the Columns of San Lorenzo should be mentioned.

To visit the archaeological museum:

<https://www.museoarcheologicomilano.it/>



Fondazione Prada

Fondazione Prada is an arts and culture institution created in 1993, dedicated to the creation of art exhibitions as well as cinema, photography, philosophy, dance and architecture projects. In 2015 Fondazione Prada has created its new Headquarters in an area of Milan that was once given over to industrial production. The distillery's historic structures were recovered and repurposed to house the Fondazione's many activities. Three new constructions lend an innovative character to the citadel: The Tower, facing the city center, soars with its irregular shapes over the lower buildings; the Haunted House, a 4-storey building clad in gold leaf; and the Podium, a vast central space on two storeys. The venue in Milan covers 19,000 square meters and, in addition to housing the Fondazione's permanent collection, it boasts wide areas dedicated to temporary exhibits and events, as well as to educational and recreational activities

For more information on one of the coolest design museum in the World:

<https://www.fondazioneprada.org>



Branca Museum

Branca is an iconic brand of Milan, which has carried the city's fame around the world. The Branca distillery, active in the city of Milan since 1845, is known not only for the quality of its products, but also for its iconic marketing, carried out by means of real works of art. The Museum and Collection Branca, pride and a wish of the family, was inaugurated in 2009. It is not just a museum that tells the story of the company: it is a place where the objects used in production because expressions, avant-garde communication and testimonials of the relationship with the territory.

For more information:

<https://www.branca-distillerie.com/museo-branca/>



The secret castle

The great castle (Castello Sforzesco) of the noble Sforza and Visconti families is one of the most famous monuments in Milan. What we propose, however, are two alternative ways to visit it: the battlements route and the underground route. Both routes can only be taken as a guided tour with reservations. Nevertheless, if you pass by Castello Sforzesco, do not forget to visit the Sala delle Asse (Room of Wooden Boards) painted by Leonardo and the Pietà Rondanini, Michelangelo's last unfinished statue.

For more information see:

<https://www.milanocastello.it>



Aperitivo a Milano (Navigli, Porta Venezia, Arco della Pace e Paolo Sarpi, Isola)

And after so many monuments and museums, we cannot help but end the day with the quintessential Milanese ritual: the 'aperitivo'. Aperitivo (aperitif) is not only a starter for the dinner, but an occasion to socialize, talk about the day's events, or simply to plan for the evening, be it dinner, a visit to a club, or a few hours of good live music. Milan the city that contributed most to its spread - in terms of mass culture and collective habit. At the beginning of the XX century, the clubs in the city center were the most popular, and the Camparino in Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, on the corner with Piazza Duomo, can be considered the progenitor of the Milanese aperitif. Now the Milanese aperitif became a "long aperitif", as it in fact trespassed on the dinner hour, often replacing it. There are hundreds of venues that offer aperitivo in Milan, but some suggestive places are known for concentration and fame of clubs. Therefore, for a true Milanese aperitif we recommend the following neighbourhoods: Navigli and Darsena, Arco della Pace, via Paolo Sarpi, Isola and the latest trend: Porta Venezia. The iconic cocktail of the Milanese aperitif? But of course, the Negroni Sbagliato!