

CUSTOM-MADE Milano

BE IT FOOD, FASHION OR FINE ART, MILAN LETS VISITORS MAKE THE CITY THEIR OWN, WRITES HEIDI MORTLOCK.



SAVOUR

DON CARLOS

Perhaps the regal air of Don Carlos Ristorante can be attributed to walls adorned with paintings from the museum of La Scala Opera House, or wine cellar lined with the ancient ruins of a Roman wall dating back to 250AD. Whatever the reason, it is a distinguished setting for your Milan dining experience. The chef focuses on delivering simple menus that are typically Italian, making fresh flavours and ingredients the stars of each plate. Service at Don Carlos is impeccable, with attentive staff providing well-informed food and wine recommendations. From homemade tagliolini sautéed with lobster to rabbit ragout with fresh oregano, there is something to tantalise all tastebuds. Situated in the Grand Hotel, don't be deceived by what could be considered a slightly outdated façade. The minute you step inside you will surrender to Don Carlos' charming character of dimmed lighting and opera music – the perfect fusion of gastronomy and culture.

WHERE ■ Via Manzoni, 29, 20121, Milano
PHONE ■ +39 02 723 14640
ONLINE ■ ristorantedoncarlos.it

SEE

TRIENNALE

Art enthusiasts cannot visit Milan without an outing to Triennale – the city's most acclaimed design museum. Founded in the 1930s, the museum showcases the globe's finest contemporary design including architecture, photography, furniture and graphic design. A diverse space, the museum is home to some of the most talked-about exhibitions and events in Europe, not to mention a haven for learning with conventions, debates, study areas and a library. Imagine an open space filled with an amalgamation of different design masterpieces that are unique in their own right; combine this with an eclectic crowd of art elitists and savvy fashionistas and you have the making of a sensory excursion. To soak up some of the atmosphere, DesignCafé is a great spot for a coffee and a relaxed bite to eat.

WHERE ■ Viale Alemagna, 6, 20121, Milano
PHONE ■ +39 02 724 341
ONLINE ■ triennale.it

SHOP

GIORGIO ARMANI

Located in the hub of Milan's fashion mecca is one of the city's most prestigious luxury shopping venues: Giorgio Armani. Not only is it the biggest Giorgio Armani boutique in the world but the notable ties between the brand and Milan inevitably create a personal link between this store and Mr Armani himself. The two-storey boutique houses men's and women's clothing, Made to Measure lines, Armani Privé fragrances, exclusive Armani Casa products for the home, and Giorgio Armani Privé jewels, but the Armani experience doesn't end there. The city is also home to an Emporio Armani Caffé, an Armani Hotel and even the acclaimed Armani/Nobu restaurant, which combines the Armani style with Nobu's traditional Japanese cuisine. Plain and simple, the Giorgio Armani Empire governs Milan so if you wish to experience genuine sophistication in Italy's most stylish city you best get onboard the Armani train.

WHERE ■ Via Montenapoleone, 2, 20121, Milano
PHONE ■ +39 02 760 03234
ONLINE ■ giorgioarmani.com

STAY

BULGARI HOTEL

In a city often referred to as the fashion capital of the world, there's little wonder the Bulgari Hotel is the preferred quarters for Milan's most glamorous visitors. Testament to the iconic Bulgari style, the hotel oozes luxury, from the plush décor right down to the lavish gardens. Each of the 58 rooms showcases Bulgari's contemporary aesthetic and boasts an attention to detail one would expect from a luxury house of such calibre. And it wouldn't be a model of true opulence without a wellness centre in which to take refuge. Bulgari's onsite spa, surrounded by glass walls and including a gold-tiled pool, certainly does not disappoint! Neither does its Il Ristorante, which prides itself on its creative Italian gastronomy and carefully selected yet diverse wine list. With a backdrop of the majestic botanical gardens and only a few steps from the city's most popular fashion destinations, the hotel couldn't be positioned more aptly.

WHERE ■ Via Privata Fratelli Gabba, 7/b, 20121, Milano
PHONE ■ +39 02 805 8051
ONLINE ■ bulgarihotels.com

