

MILAN

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Milan this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



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PACKING TIPS

1. "Bring an empty **hold-all** and go mad shopping when you arrive—that's the whole point of Milan."—TripAdvisor Member, London
2. "Milan is a pretty stylish place. But it's a modern city, full of all kinds of people, so you can wear what you like. However, you'll enjoy it more if you **dress up a little**."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England
3. To inspire little ones, bring along *The Second Mrs. Giaconda* by E.L. Konigsburg. "This delightful book of fiction, focusing on the time Leonardo DaVinci was in Milan, is told through the eyes of his wayward young assistant, Salai. Touring the Sforza castle will take on new meaning."—TripAdvisor Member

Inside MILAN

If your ideal picture of Italy has rolling countryside dotted with yellow sunflowers or a rocky coast reflected in blue water, Milan may come as a gray surprise. This busy city has a hard edge and a definite inclination toward big business. But there's a softer, more vibrant side, too. Stroll along any street and you'll find bursts of color in shop windows. The Mediterranean metropolis has its own climate with blazing hot, humid summers and wet, chilly winters.

The Milanese are a notoriously serious lot, and they are most serious about their fashion—from big Italian names like Prada to numerous up-and-comers. Don your best outfit and your most comfortable (and stylish) walking shoes and explore all Milan's beauty, from the ornate Cathedral (Duomo) to the famous La Scala Opera House (Teatro alla Scala), plus art museums, galleries and elegant palazzos. By the end of your stay, you just might find that gray is the new black (and the perfect background to highlight all your own colorful accessories).

Top VIEWS



MILAN'S BEST VIEWS



“**Parco Sempione** is a nice park with a view to Arco della Pace, similar to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

Parco Sempione, Piazza Castello

“**La Rinascente**, a department store with a restaurant on the top floor, has a great view of the Duomo.”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

La Rinascente, Via Washington 70, 02 467711

“It’s pretty good inside the **Cathedral (Duomo)**, but the highlight was the roof: Use the lift or go for the full experience by climbing the stairs. When you get up there, not only do you get a great view, but you can climb around and in and out of the spires. It’s like a forest!”—TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, U.K.

Cathedral (Duomo), Piazza del Duomo, 02 72022656

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Cathedral (Duomo), Piazza del Duomo, 02 72022656
2. Ambrosiana Library & Picture Gallery (Biblioteca-Pinacoteca Ambrosiana), Piazza Pio XI, 02 806921
3. Monumental Cemetery (Cimitero Monumentale), Piazzale Cimitero Monumentale, 1, 02 6599938
4. The Last Supper, Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie, 2, 02 92800360
5. Sacrestia del Bramante, via Caradosso, 1, 02 80 69 22 48
6. Museo Poldi Pezzoli, Via Manzoni 12, 02 794889
7. Stadio Giuseppe Meazza (San Siro), Via Piccolomini, 5, 02 48713731
8. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Piazza del Duomo
9. Santa Maria Presso di San Satiro, via Torino
10. Castello Sforzesco, Piazza Castello, 3, 02 88463700

FAMILIES



“**Stadio Giuseppe Meazza (San Siro)** is one of the top 10 football stadiums in Europe. Even if you are not an aficionado of round ball, the stadium is still worth a visit. On its own, it is quite an architectural treat.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hereford, England

Stadio Giuseppe Meazza (San Siro), Via Piccolomini, 5, 02 4042432

“Make sure you visit the little **Aquarium** at the east corner of Parco Sempione—it’s housed in a beautiful building and it’s free.” The panoramic fish tank will amuse the kids, and the low key atmosphere is relaxing after Milan’s busy tourist sites.—TripAdvisor Member, Leeds, U.K.

Milan Aquarium (L’Acquario Civico di Milano), Viale Gadio 2, 02 88465750

“Just imagine any ice cream you’ve ever had and multiply that by a million and two, and you get the domain of deliciousness: **Rivareno Gelato**. They make all their gelato in house, and they make some of the most absurdly delicious flavors.”—TripAdvisor Member, Riverside, Conn.

Rivareno Gelato, Viale Col de Lana, 8, 02 89077147

ROMANCE



“The revamped **La Scala** is a visual and acoustic delight, and our long wait for tickets was more than worth it. Although it’s a real struggle to get your hands on tickets, it’s worth every penny. We really felt like royalty.”—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

La Scala Opera House (Teatro alla Scala), Via Filodrammatici, 2, 02 72003744

“**Brera**, the art district, is within walking distance of the Duomo. It’s filled with lots of small bars and nice restaurants that are crowded with mostly locals.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Brera

“When we first turned around the corner and saw the **Cathedral (Duomo)**, it was an amazing sight. Magnificent. And much bigger than it looks in photos, which can’t really capture its beauty.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bahrain

Cathedral (Duomo), Piazza del Duomo, 02 72022656

“...domain of deliciousness”

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

“Even if you don’t intend to shop, go to the **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II** just to marvel at the structure.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Antonio, Texas

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Piazza del Duomo

The “**Colonne di San Lorenzo** area is the place to be. This is where the people of Milan go. It is a very social, fun atmosphere. Do not miss it, but only if you are respectful and social and ready for great times.”—TripAdvisor Member, Richmond Hill, Ontario

Colonne di San Lorenzo, Corso di Porta Ticinese

“If you want to see a Leonardo DiVinci without the crowds and long lines of *The Last Supper*, go to the **Pinacoteca Ambrosiana**, a cloistered library and gallery. You will be the only one there.”—TripAdvisor Member, Garden City, New York

Ambrosiana Library & Picture Gallery (Biblioteca-Pinacoteca Ambrosiana), Piazza Pio XI 2, 02 806921

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

“Milan has large, beautiful parks for running, so you seldom see runners in the streets. I am very partial to the **Parco Nord**, which is on the outskirts but easily reachable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

Parco Nord, Via Aldo Moro

“The **Navigli** (canal) region is quite lively and full of bars and restaurants. We had a fun night there with a fantastic pizza and afterwards cocktails on a canal boat!”—TripAdvisor Member, Glasgow, Scotland

Navigli District, South of Corso Porta Ticinese

If you enjoy “green countryside,” get a breath of fresh air at **River Ticino Regional Park** “with plenty of trails and bike paths.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

River Ticino Regional Park, Malpensa



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“If you want to see ‘The Last Supper’ at **Santa Maria della Grazie**, make sure you book. Viewings of the painting were fully booked for a month in advance! You can do it over the internet. It has to be seen.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cheshire, U.K.

Santa Maria della Grazie, Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie, 2, 02 92800360

“**Castello Sforzesco** is a great Visconti castle filled with all sorts of things: the main city art collection, a room decorated by Leonardo, a collection of carriages and a museum of musical instruments.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Castello Sforzesco, Piazza Castello, 3, 02 88463700

“**Museo Poldi-Pezzoli** has some good Renaissance paintings, but for the young history buffs the main attraction is a superb collection of arms and armor—beautifully displayed and evocative enough to excite young imaginations.”—TripAdvisor Member, Frankfurt, Germany

Museo Poldi-Pezzoli, Via Manzoni 12, 02 794889

“It has to be seen.”



RELAXATION

Take a day trip to **Lake Como** for a calming boat cruise or a scenic cable car ride to the top of the mountain. “What to do once you are up there? Stroll around, stop for an aperitivo, stroll again, stop for another aperitivo, then stroll again...”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

Lake Como

Villa Reale is “a wonderful piece of architecture. However, the highlight of the building is the garden at the rear. Pleasant grassed areas, trees, ruins and a lake with ducks and terrapins. Just the place for a picnic on a hot day.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Giardini di Villa Reale, Via Palestro, Monza

“One of the glories of **Palazzo Clerici** is the gallery, which has a magnificent ceiling by Tiepolo. His depiction of the continents, rivers and passage of the sun is staggering and well worth the effort of going to see.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Palazzo Clerici, Via Clerici 5, 02 8633131

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



“**Walking** is the best option for certain areas of Milan. While in the major city center, there is no need to obtain public transportation—wander from shop to shop and attraction to attraction, stopping at museums and taking breaks at restaurants and cafes.”—TripAdvisor Member

“Getting around Milan is relatively easy, particularly for travelers who are willing to use **public transportation**. It is inexpensive and it covers a large portion of Milan. Trams and buses run all night long (as opposed to the subway, which closes at midnight).”—TripAdvisor Member

“Driving in Milan can be quite an adventure, especially in the center of the city. Those travelers who do not wish to make use of public transportation should spend the money it costs (and it can be somewhat pricey) to take **taxis**.”—TripAdvisor Member

“A highlight of our trip to Italy was our **Segway Tour** of Milan. It was a great introduction to the city and FUN! It was great to locate different sights that we wanted to return to later.”—TripAdvisor Member, Minnesota

Milan Segway Tours, 055 2398855

Want more information on Milan? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Milan or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat



“Milan is not the best place for eating on a low budget.

It's the most expensive city in Italy, and sometimes you don't even eat that well.

However, there is a true 'Milanese' cuisine. If you're lucky, you might taste the real *risotto alla milanese*, with saffron and parmesan, or *cassoeula*, a stew of pork meat with vegetables, or the famous *cotoletta alla milanese* (veal cutlet).”—TripAdvisor Member

FAMILIES

Pizza OK “is a local haunt, which means the food is very good and the prices are decent. They have about fifty types of pizza, so it's impossible not to find one to match the taste of each family member.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bucharest, Romania

Pizza OK, Via Lambro 15, 02 29401272

“Italians love children and any restaurant will serve you a dish of pasta for your kid. But I doubt you'll find a place in Milan where your kid will be given a special menu or toys to play with at the table! There is an Italian fast food chain, where you get pizza slices and other dishes, called **Spizzico**.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

Spizzico, Various locations

“**Peck** is a huge deli, not too far from the Duomo, with a wine store/bar on the lower level, main deli on the ground floor and a coffee/tea room on the first floor.”—TripAdvisor Member

Peck, Via Spadari, 9, 02 8023161

“Cozy and intimate”

ROMANCE

Enjoy “the flavors of Asia at **Shambala**. The atmosphere is soft and engaging, thanks largely to the arrangement of lights and candles and the distinctive scents of incense and spices.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brianza, Italy

Shambala, Via Ripamonti 337, 02 5520194

“We choose **Don Carlos** for our Valentine's Day dinner, and we were absolutely satisfied with everything. Every course was perfect, and it was a very romantic and relaxing atmosphere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Riga, Latvia

Don Carlos, Via Alessandro Manzoni 29, 02 72314640

De Pasajo is “perfect for an intimate dinner. Suffused with lights, nice furniture and exotic pieces of art, there is a cozy and intimate feeling. The restaurant's name is Brazilian, but the food is from a region of Italy named Le Marche.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

De Pasajo, Via Cesare da Sesto 7, 33 93791893

WHERE to eat



BUDGET



“Solo Pizza is among the best and the cheapest you can find in all of Milan. The pizza is Neapolitan style, with a thicker, softer base. And very good!”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan

Solo Pizza, Alzaia Naviglio Pavese, 6, 02 89403717

“A trip to Milan isn’t complete without a visit to **Luini** for a panzerotti! The first day we went I overdid it and ate too many, so be forewarned: They are delicious but very filling!”—TripAdvisor Member, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Luini Panzerotti, Via S. Radegonda 16, 02 86461917

“‘Wow’ is all I can say about **Da Maruzella**. The pizza was amazing, as was everything else. I had a great meal and walked out spending under \$20!”—TripAdvisor Member, Glen Ridge, N.J.

Da Maruzella, Piazza Guglielmo Oberdan, 3, 02 29525729

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS



“**Joia** is an incredible restaurant. It is mostly vegetarian but they also have some fish items. It is a one-star Michelin, so the wine list and the service are also amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Joia, Via Panfilo Castaldi, 18, 02 29522124

La Rosa serves an “excellent selection of appetizers, seafood, pasta and homemade desserts. They also have a special menu for those with celiac disease and other food intolerances.”—TripAdvisor Member, Monza, Italy

La Rosa dei Venti, Via Piero della Francesca 34, 02 347338

“While the menu at **Antica Hostaria della Lanterna** doesn’t give you many choices, it’s because all the food, including the desserts, is home-made and very fresh. Everything I’ve ever eaten there tasted beautiful.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Antica Hostaria della Lanterna, Via Mercalli, 3, 02 58309604

HIDDEN GEMS



“Go!” to **Primonovecento Osteria**. “The champagne was so good, the ambiance and welcoming atmosphere so charming. And the food was delicious. Strawberries with a pot of melted chocolate for dipping was a perfect finish to the meal.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Primonovecento Osteria, Via Ruggero di Lauria, 17, 02 33611643

“Family owned and run” **Trattoria Masuelli** boasts a “short, highly regional menu—everything absolutely delish. We were the only non-locals there. This is not a fancy or ‘styled’ place. You might walk in by if you hadn’t been recommended.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Trattoria Masuelli, Viale Umbria 80, 02 55184138

Casanova is “definitely one of Milan’s hidden gems, with great service and an inviting, relaxed atmosphere.” Serving regional cuisine and seasonal specialties, “the presentation of the food was awesome, and the wine was great, too.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Casanova Restaurant, The Westin Palace, Piazza della Repubblica 20, 02 63364001

SPECIAL EVENTS



Experience the finest in contemporary European music in some of Milan’s most prestigious venues during **Milano Musica**. Each year, the festival celebrates a different composer; the 2011 edition will honor Helmut Lachenmann. (October 2 – November 17)

Milano Musica, Various venues, 02 20 40 34 78, <http://www.milanomusica.org>

Treat yourself to sweets and delights while children enjoy the festive atmosphere at the “**Oh Bej! Oh Bej!**” **Christmas Market**, where you’ll find everything from antiques to candy and chestnuts, warmed for the season. (December 7 – 11)

“**Oh Bej! Oh Bej!**” **Christmas Market, Castello Sforzesco, 02 77 40 43 43, <http://www.milanocastello.it>**

Find that one-of-a-kind gift for the holiday at **L’Artigiano in Fiera**, a massive arts and crafts exhibition featuring thousands of unique creations. (December 3 – 11)

L’Artigiano in Fiera, Fiera Milano, Rho-Pero, 02 31 91 19 11, <http://www.expodeisapori.it>

Gather your donations together for the **Befana Benefica** charity procession, when the streets of Milan fill with motorcyclists, headed by the Befana witch, collecting gifts, toys and treats to give to those in need. (January 5)

Befana Benefica, Piazza Duomo, <http://www.motoclubtinese.it>

Get your fill of the coming fall trends during the hottest event in fashion, **Milan Fashion Week**. The men’s fashion week takes place between the 14th and 18th of January and the women’s between the 22th and 28th of February. (January – February)

Milan Fashion Week, Various venues, 02 77 71 08 1, <http://www.cameramoda.it>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

Located within “a 15-minute walk from the city center,” **Lancaster Hotel** is “very close to the Parco Sempione. So if the weather is nice, it’s easy to spend time outside in the sun. It was a pleasant stay, with spacious and clean rooms and a very good breakfast buffet.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wiesbaden, Germany

Hotel Lancaster, Via Abbondio Sangiorgio, 16, 02 344705

“The **Berna** is brilliantly located only two minutes from the Central Station. The staff were very helpful and great with our kids. The hotel is modern and offers great extras, including the famous breakfast, free internet, coffee and bar food.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kildare, Ireland

Hotel Berna, Via Napo Torriani 18, 02 677311

“Oh my, oh my,” **Gran Duca di York** is “a very fab hotel literally, no honestly, five-minute’s walk away from the Duomo. Close enough to drop down shopping bags and go for another round! Hooray for Gran Duca!”—TripAdvisor Member, Lausanne, Switzerland

Grand Duca di York, Via Moneta, 1, 02 874863

“Gloriously over the top!”



Have questions about Milan? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“When we search for a hotel for a city break we always look for a hotel like **Spadari Al Duomo**: a small hotel with superb location, central but quiet, with lovely decor and the kindest and most helpful staff in any hotel in Italy!” It’s like having “a home in Milan.”—TripAdvisor Member, Coimbra, Portugal

Hotel Spadari al Duomo, Via Spadari, 11, 02 72002371

Principe Di Savoia is “gloriously over the top! Despite its classical facade, the rooms are luxurious and in no way understated, equipped with all the modern amenities and facilities of a top five-star hotel. Service standards throughout the hotel were impeccable—but with a refreshing lack of pretension!”—TripAdvisor Member, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Principe Di Savoia, Piazza Della Repubblica, 17, 02 62301

Enterprise Hotel is “gorgeous. What a beautiful and amazing place to stay in Milan! Its stylish and modern ambiance is unique. The Enterprise staff is very helpful and friendly; the rooms are clean and comfortable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Austria

Enterprise Hotel, Corso Sempione, 91, 02 318181

BUDGET

“I booked **The Hub Hotel** because the price was really good. What a pleasant surprise it turned out to be! The rooms and the hotel itself are modern, spotless and beautifully designed with lots of high-end details.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cordoba, Argentina

The Hub Hotel, Via Privata Polonia 10, 02 78627000

“I’ve stayed at the **Mirage** on several occasions now and rate it very highly. Why? Because the service is excellent, the staff are consistently pleasant and helpful, and the rooms have excellent light and views.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Mirage Hotel Milan, Viale Certosa 104/106, 02 39210471

“We had a lovely stay at the **Piccolo Hotel**. The room was basic and clean, with bed made and shower room replenished every day. There’s free parking and wifi. And all the staff were very charming!”—TripAdvisor Member, Glasgow, Scotland

Piccolo Hotel, Via Piero della Francesca, 60, 02 33601775

LUXURY

We “loved every minute” at the **Park Hyatt**. “The staff is outstanding, multilingual, natural, kind, people-oriented. Beautiful. Lovely if you want to be pampered and treated a little like royalty.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Park Hyatt Milan, Via Tommaso Grossi, 1, 02 88211234

“**Starhotels Anderson** is deceptively plain, ordinary and ugly from the outside. But on the inside, it’s a completely different world—interesting, contemporary furniture, unusual colors, but pleasant. In total, the hotel is designed in a charming and contemporary manner.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stuttgart, Germany

Starhotels Anderson, Piazza Luigi di Savoia, 20, 02 6690141

The **Hotel Manzoni** “can be hard to find, but that’s only because it’s in the middle of the shopping district, right between Versace and Zegna. We were able to book our spa and restaurant reservations in advance, and they threw in breakfast for no additional charge.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Hotel Manzoni, Via Santo Spirito 20, 02 76005700

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

Enjoy the “great hospitality” at **Milan Bed & Bread**. “We were greeted by the absolutely wonderful Donata. In the mornings, she arranged a good breakfast for us and took time to answer all our questions. It was like living at a friend’s house!”—TripAdvisor Member, Stockholm, Sweden

Milan Bed & Bread, Via Vetta d’Italia 14, 02 468267

“The **Porta Garibaldi** is simply the best. The studio is very spacious and very tastefully decorated. The owner pays attention to every detail, leaving guests with a feeling of comfort.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hong Kong, China

Porta Garibaldi Bed and Breakfast, Viale Pasubio, 8, 02 29061419

“**Glamour Apartments** is a real gem in Milan. They have five suites in a building located one-minute from the Duomo. The Tiffany Suite is very large, airy, beautifully furnished with panoramic windows.”—TripAdvisor Member

Glamour Apartments, Via Privata Passarella, 4, 02 89055348

“...like living at a friend’s house!”

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