

MILAN

ENCOUNTER

DONNA WHEELER

Milan Encounter

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Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighbourhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighbourhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote 'areas of interest' – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

Prices

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DONNAWHEELER

Donna's first impression of Milan was all late-night chaos and models behaving badly. These days it's the city's intriguing architecture, iconic designers, dynamic art scene and penchant for raw fish that lure her back during visits to her husband's family in nearby Piedmonte and Liguria. Not to mention a recurring dream involving Costume National shoes. Donna commissioned restaurant guides and online features inhouse for Lonely Planet. Her careers include editing, digital producing, content strategy and art direction. She has studied visual arts, literature and postgraduate professional writing and editing, and writes on history, art and food. This is her third book for Lonely Planet.



DONNA'S THANKS

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THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Born in Rome, Paolo Cordelli has been taking pictures since 1991. He works as freelance photographer and also gives lessons in photography, specialising in travel and landscapes. During his career, Paolo has taken photographs in the USA, India, Thailand, Morocco, Tunisia and Italy and many other European countries.

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Feeding the hungry masses at Piazza del Duomo (p43)

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THIS IS MILAN

Milan is Italy's city of the future, a fast-paced metropolis where creativity is big business, looking good is compulsory and after-work drinks, *aperitivi*, are an artform.

It's also a city with ancient roots and extraordinary treasures, that, unlike the rest of Italy, you'll quite often get to experience without queues of tourists, touts or a raft of expectations. Flat, featureless and with a grab bag of architectural styles, Milan is often called ugly. We'd rather say it has character. A warren of cobbled streets fans out from the Duomo while historic neighbourhoods like Brera and Navigli have charm worthy of any tourist brochure. Others are lined with stately 19th-century and Liberty apartment buildings and dotted with stunning modernist icons.

'You hear people ask for a 'cappuccio' as if the cappuccino was a diminutive form - the client wants to make sure he isn't being slighted,' novelist Luciano Bianciardi remarked of the Milanese in 1966. Nothing has changed. Milan may look like an introverted, moody town but its 1.3 million inhabitants are indefatigably optimistic, fabulously ambitious, alarmingly stylish and often full of hot, if well-articulated, air. The Milanese, also known as Meneghini or Ambrosiani, aren't as homogeneous as their designer suits and flawless grooming make out. Two economic booms at the start and middle of the 20th century brought generations of immigrants from the south and were joined by Chinese, African, Latin American, Indian, Eastern European and Middle Eastern communities.

Milanese don't have time to play nice for visitors, but they're happy to share their own intoxicating round of pursuits, be that precision shopping, following AC or Inter fanatically, browsing edgy contemporary galleries and the world's chicest design showrooms, discovering Italy's most innovative and diverse culinary landscape, listening to live acts from Verdito Vampire Weekend, clubbing 'til dawn and, of course, loading up a plate with local delicacies while downing an expertly mixed evening Negroni.

Top So much more than a shopping arcade – Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (p43) **Bottom** The wood-panelled pasticceria, of Marchesi (p53)