

3 PERFECT DAYS

* DAY 1 // DISCOVERING THE DUOMO AND CENTRAL MILAN

Whether it's your first or 100th visit to Milan, a pilgrimage to the overwhelming Duomo (p39) rarely fails to impress. Head up for a rooftop view of the city centre, then set off to stroll in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (p47), an eye-catching neoclassical arcade, and world-renowned 18th-century La Scala opera house (p48). From there, walk to the Castello Sforzesco (p43), where you can mix culture in the castle's museums with downtime in the Parco Sempione (p46).

DAY 2 // SUPPER, SHOPS AND MORE SUPPER

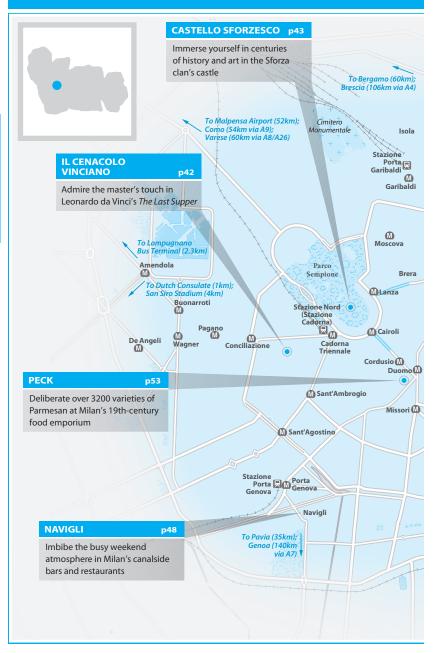
Make sure you're booked in to admire Leonardo da Vinci's *Il cenacolo* (The Last Supper; p42) in the morning. Inspired by such beauty, a trip to the Monte Napoleone area (aka the Quadrilatero d'Oro; p43) is in order to discover the heart of high-fashion shopping, Milan style. After dropping your acquisitions off at the hotel, head to the Navigli (p48) area for a slap-up meal at El Brellin (p52) and drinks at one of the many nearby bars.

DAY 3 // DAY TRIPPING

For a change of pace, you could squeeze in a couple of day trips out of Milan. The first would take you south to Pavia (p58), a pretty university town well worth exploring in its own right. The main attraction, however, is the extraordinary Certosa di Pavia (p59), a Renaissance monastery complex 10km north of Pavia and easily reached by local transport. Hourly buses also run southwest to Vigevano (p61), whose central Piazza Ducale (p61) is a theatrical Renaissance masterpiece.

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