

MILANO, CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Milano, January 2022 – Milano is a city composed of diverse and distinctive **neighborhoods**, which surround the historic city center in a succession of **social identities and functions**. For example, Ticinese with its Roman columns and Navigli with its Medieval canals offer much-appreciated hangouts to Milanese and out-of-town youth. At the city's east, Porta Venezia is the home of LGBTQ bars and cuisine from the Horn of Africa. In the city's north, Isola tends to be liked by people that are into alternative crafts and culture, while Porta Romana, in the city's south, is appreciated by foodies and students. Then there's Chinatown, and artsy NoLo and that's just the beginning of it. Going beyond entertainment and socializing, and considering economic development, most of the new urban expansion of Milano for the Olympics will take place in Scalo Romana, while the MIND district near Rho Fiera Milano is accelerating biotech research on a vast scale. No matter if you come to Milano for business or leisure, here's our compilation of great neighborhoods around the city.

NAVIGLI AND TORTONA

There is nothing more Milanese than a night out at **Navigli**. These are freshwater canals that come into the city from the south, Naviglio Grande and Naviglio Pavese, and merge into the **Darsena** docks by Porta Ticinese. Many young people come here to have fun, because when the night falls, it's aperitivo big time on the quays and bridges! Sunsets by the water on the Navigli are especially instagrammed. The area behind Porta Genova Station comprises the **Tortona Design District**, which is home to many designers' studios and fashion showrooms and hosts the Design Week each year, a boon for the Milanese creative youth for its parties and vernissages, which attract talent from all over the world.

PORTA NUOVA AND CORSO GARIBALDI

Porta Nuova is Milano's urban future made real. The Unicredit and Bosco Verticale skyscrapers dominate a brand-new district, which straddles across the Brera and Isola neighborhoods. The **Gae Aulenti Plaza** (M2/M5 Garibaldi FS) is the symbol of Milano's new-found dynamism in the 2010s, giving the city its current skyline and hosting a crop of international brands, including Nike and Tesla: is it Manhattan or Milano? The Lombardy Region has also built its headquarters in the area: the Palazzo Lombardia high-rise and its surrounding complex (M4 Isola). The Milano Library of Trees (BAM) is the flowery new urban park that connects Porta Nuova with Isola. And if you walk down **Corso Como**, you will find a panoply of cafeterias, discos, and cocktail bars. Beyond the gate there's **Corso Garibaldi**, which is one of Milano's most characteristic streets, full of traditional shops and Milanese culture.

ISOLA

Isola is the alternative neighborhood under the shade of the Vertical Forest which is especially appreciated by the free-minded. Isola, i.e the Island, owes its name to the fact that it is isolated by railway tracks from the rest of the city and acts as an **urban bridge** between **old and new**. Until the 1970s it was the reign of the burglars of the Ligera, the Milanese underworld. Then, starting in the 1990s, young artists and activists moved to the neighborhood. Isola soon became one of the hippest neighborhoods in the city. Then the impressive **urban transformation** and gentrification taking

place in the 2000s. A neighborhood of young creatives and non-conformist families where you can embrace new trends, spend your free time in delightful coffee shops and jazz clubs, and be a protagonist of change in the city in the 'hood's many environmental associations.

PORTA VENEZIA

In October 2020, **Porta Venezia** was ranked among the forty coolest neighborhoods in the world by London's Time Out magazine. The liberty-era district of Porta Venezia is the rainbow neighborhood of Milano and has a strong ethnic imprint as well. Since the 1960s, it has been home to the Eritrean and Ethiopian communities of Milano. Since the 1990s, it has become the queer epicenter of the city, hosting the nation's Pride Parade in June every year.

Porta Venezia lets you also enjoy the first public park (1784) in the history of Milano, **Giardini di Palestro**, where you'll find the Gallery of Modern Art and the PAC contemporary art space, the Museum of Natural History and the Planetarium, the kids' merry-go-round, an outdoor bar where people play chess, and that's only the beginning of it. For ethnic food, a drink, shopping, or culture, you're likely to end up in Porta Venezia during your stay in Milano.

PORTA ROMANA AND SCALO ROMANA

Porta Romana and the adjoining **Piazzale Lodi** area is one Milano's emerging neighborhoods for daily living and nightlife. Populated by middle-class professionals and college students, especially from the nearby **Bocconi University**, **IULM** and **NABA**, the area has undergone a great transformation in recent years, which will be completed by the construction of the Olympic Village for the **2026 Winter Games** at Scalo Romana, in the midst of the old railway yards by Lodi metro station. The neighborhood extends south from the like-named 1596 arch built along the perimeter of the Spanish walls (from there you could take the road to Rome). Porta Romana contains a food district, with several specialty eateries and wineries, bookstores and cafés, and has become the proud home of **Fondazione Prada**, a vast complex that hosts a truly transnational cultural institution for contemporary visual arts.

CHINATOWN AND MONUMENTALE

Milano is one of the most Sinophile cities in the world. In fact, the city's Chinatown is the largest in Europe after Paris. Its history begins a century ago when the first Chinese families migrated to the area near Cimitero Monumentale. **Via Paolo Sarpi** is the main street of Chinatown. Wholly **pedestrianized**, it is **one of the most pleasant walks in Milan**, day and night: Asian and Italian street food, Chinese restaurants (Cantonese, Sichuan, Shanghai-style) and import shops dominate the street in a surprising succession of tastes and trends. The food is great and generally cheap, but Chinatown can also be chic!

Cimitero Monumentale is one of the most surprising places in Milan. Easily reachable now with Lilac metro line, it offers eternal peace to the rich and famous and offers aesthetic tranquility to the living. The imposing neoclassical building at the entrance conceals wide paths of white gravel where sumptuous tombs and eclectic mausoleums have been erected by the Milanese industrial bourgeoisie since late 1800s to celebrate their greatness. An open-air museum where it is beautiful to get lost on a sunny morning. Near the Cemetery, you can visit the brand-new **ADI Design Museum**, which charts the history of Italian design, through the creations of the winners of the Compasso d'Oro Award, established by Gio Ponti in 1954. The museum collects all 350 award-winning products and creations that have revolutionized everyday life over the decades.

NOLO

The new and upcoming **NoLo** district is the new magnet for Milano's bohos. NoLo stands for North of Loreto square. Located between Loreto and the Stazione Centrale, this area has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last decade, becoming the neighborhood of choice for young bohemians and queer couples, thanks to its art galleries, vegan cafés, alternative cinemas, ethnic shops, and the one of the best covered market in Milano (Mercato Crespi). Tactical urbanism has made this neighborhood pedestrian-friendly, with the popular Piazza Arcobaleno (formerly Piazza Spoleto) and the exquisite liberty-era Piazza Morbegno with its fountain being the hot spots of this graffitied 'hood.

MIND

Where EXPO once was, there is MIND. The Milano Innovation District is also a whole new neighborhood pointing to the future. The future of pharma and biotech, with university campuses, hospitals, corporate labs and medical startups. MIND is still expanding, but when construction is finished few years from now, it will be a huge public area devoted to research, education, and health functions and will have the population of a mid-sized municipality.

15 kilometers north-west of Duomo, at the junction of all main highway corridors connecting Milano to the rest of Italy and Europe, MIND – Milan Innovation District is the largest public-private urban regeneration project in Italy, being constructed in the area where the Expo stood in 2015.

The driving force of the neighborhood is scientific and technological innovation with the Galeazzi Hospital and the Statale University Science Campus as major attractors: when fully operational, MIND will be traversed by 60,000-70,000 people a day studying, working, and living there.

MIND will be fully pedestrianized: cars will be left in one of the 10,000 parking lots at the entrance of the urban community and people will move around on bikes, scooters, e-mopeds, and electric shuttles.

About Milano&Partners and YesMilano

Milano&Partners is the official promotion agency of the City of Milano.

It is an association founded by the Municipality of Milano and the Chamber of Commerce of Milano, Monza, Brianza, Lodi. It was created to activate partnerships and collaborations with local businesses, global brands, universities, cultural institutions, and other public and private entities. We promote the YesMilano brand around the world to attract new visitors, new talents and new businesses to the city.

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