

DAZZLING DESTINATIONS

The best of Italy sparkles – five glamorous getaways with beautiful jewels

BY MARK ELLWOOD



THE VIBE: The flash-pack strikes back
JEWEL NEWS: No gem fan should leave Italy without visiting the Piedmont region. Start in Milan, where both **Pomellato** and **Buccellati** have flagships. The former, famous for its pioneering use of colored stones, is on Via San Pietro all'Orto, while the latter, renowned for textured, tactile pieces, is two blocks away, on the toniest drag, Via Montenapoleone. Charm the staffers enough at either location and you might join other VIPs on tours of their ateliers, too.

Drive a short distance from Milan to reach Valenza, a goldsmithing hub also on the River Po. There, jewelry-lovers can join a two-day guided tour hosted by **Pasquale Bruni's** creative director, Eugenia (pairing workshop visits with gourmet dinners) or visit **Vhernier**, the newest gem in this century-old mecca, which focuses on unconventional designs.
STAY & PLAY: Billionaire investors-turned-hoteliere Alex and Carrie Vik have just imported their expertise in art-heavy luxe retreats from South America to Europe. Their first spot on the continent is Milan, where 90-room **Galleria Vik Milano** (above right) opened this fall inside the historic Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Each individually designed suite features site-specific art installations, including an enormous mural in the lobby by Italian artist Alex Folla. Rub shoulders with Milan's glitterati at the onsite restaurant, Vikissimo.



ABOVE: Buccellati "Zebra" pendant necklace, \$3,500

LEFT: Pomellato "Iconica" rose- and white-gold rings with diamonds, from \$2,970 to \$7,800