

Milan Is The Next Design Hot Spot To Visit

From charming streets filled with vintage treasures to art galleries that rival The Met, you'll want to add this city to the top of your list.

By Porter Simmons

Milan tends to fall further down on the roster when it comes to Italian vacation spots. It lacks the ancient history of Rome's ruins and the picturesque waterways of Venice—and by consequence often plays the role of a quick pit-stop en route to more Instagrammable coastlines. Many might even tell you to skip Milan altogether. With all of this in mind, I figured the best way to suss out the skepticism surrounding the design hub of Italy was with a few days of uninterrupted exploration. The verdict? Don't sleep on Milan.

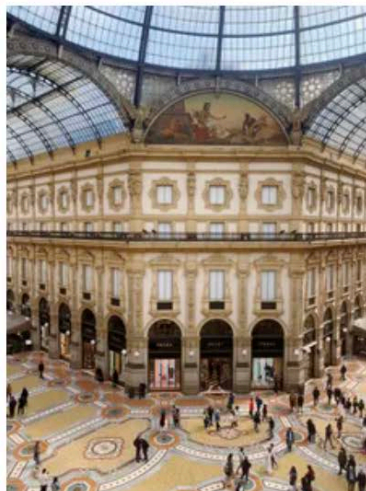
One of the easiest ways to sell me on spontaneous travel is with efficiency. Throw in the word "comfortable" and I'm immediately on board—literally. This past April, boutique airline La Compagnie launched business-class only routes to and from Milan. No more time spent bumping legs with your neighbors (though often used as an incentive to spend a little extra on the Prada bag awaiting me on the ground) with affordable and *changeable* roundtrip tickets available at the ready. Every seat turns into a flat-bed and has a glass of champagne awaiting you on board, so I recommend booking a ticket ASAP if you'd like to arrive even fresher than you were before boarding the plane.

Where To Stay

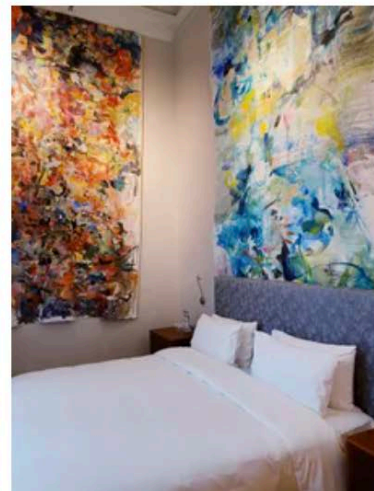
Galleria Vik Milano



One of the hotel's Grand Terrace Rooms, completely covered with work from contemporary painter Fernando López Lage; Photos: Courtesy of Porter Simmons



A view of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, taken from the balcony of a room in Galleria Vik Milano.



A room with paintings by Vicky barranquet—a Uruguayan abstract expressionist.

While the city is overflowing with accommodations that are more than up to par, the newly-opened Galleria Vik Milano wins not only for its location, but for its aesthetic as well. With 90 rooms and suites designed by different artists, the quirky and eclectic atmosphere of the hotel is a major additive in experiencing the aesthetically-driven nature of Milan. The hotel is located inside one of Milan's most iconic landmarks: the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Book a room overlooking the inside of the Galleria, just a stone's throw from the city's impressive Duomo and complete with an A+ view of tourists and locals alike. Better yet, you'll be able to get a glimpse of the first-ever Prada store just outside of your window.

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