

BELLO E BEN FATTO

New guided tours on Milanese Arts & Crafts: through these itineraries the visitor explores the artisans' workshops and the museums that hold the secrets of Milanese traditions in Applied Arts. The tours highlight the relationship between the rich artistic and historical Italian heritage and its contemporary declination, in the modern workshops and ateliers.

1. TAILORMADE JEWELS

Perfection of design and preciousness of materials are combined in jewels to create an ornament in absolute harmony between beauty and manufacturing: the highest levels of creative quality and craftsmanship.

With this itinerary you will visit the **Gold Room in the Poldi Pezzoli House Museum**, which has over than two hundreds precious jewels in gold, grouped into four sections: the ancient enamels, the sacred jewellery, collectors' items and jewels. Among them, a group of Etruscan pieces coming from funerary legacy. Starting with the museum visit to discover the jewels history and ornamental function, you can then have a delightful walk in the surrounding area to reach an **exclusive jewellery shop**. Now at its fourth generation, the family of jewellers has never ceased to fascinate its loyal customers, with its elegant and precious creations. In the atelier you can admire the jewels' stages of realization, together with the infinite set of cufflinks in enamel, bone, precious stones and pearls that have been contributing to the fame of their brand since 1876.

Photocourtesy: Dario Garofalo "Milano su misura"



2. SOUND OF TRADITION

The **Museum of Musical Instruments**, hosted in the rooms of **Castello Sforzesco** in Milan, houses a rich collection of musical instruments from the 15th (b.c.) to the early 20th century.

It's a path that winds through mandolins, violas, guitars, violins, wind instruments and harpsichords ordered by typology and origin.

This itinerary wants to examine in depth one of the Lombard worldwide excellence: the "Liuteria" (bow-instruments making and lute manufacture).

In Milan there are many shops of masters who dedicate themselves with passion to this ancient and noble art.

We will meet an artisan who builds modern string instruments in his laboratory using models inspired by the Milanese school and creates copies of traditional instruments.

He studied the 18th century texts and developed a "secret recipe" with oil, amber, pigments to give a special coat to the surfaces.

Photocourtesy: Dario Garofalo "Milano su misura"



3. HISTORICAL AND PRECIOUS LEATHERS

The **Bagatti Valsecchi Museum** hosts an interesting collection of Italian artisanal made leather goods from 15th and 16th centuries.

It ranges from weapons cases and containers to gunpowder flasks and the “rotella”, a type of shield used for decorative purposes in parades.

Leather is one of the reoccurring elements, together with metal, always present in warrior’s equipment of every age.

We will visit a **famous Boots Manufacture** in Milan, close to the barrack that hosted the Savoy Cavalry regiment.

This workshop is an excellence in leather manufacturing holding the heritage and the experience of master’s shoemakers who produced boots for the regiment.

In the elegant atelier you can order shoes hand-made and hand-sewn in every step: from the foot imprint on paper, to the template and shapes production, and finally the upper.

Photocourtesy: Dario Garofalo "Milano su misura"



4. TIMELESS BEAUTY

The **Biblioteca Ambrosiana**, founded by Cardinal Federico Borromeo in 1607 and opened in 1609, is one of the first libraries built by a private patron to be opened for public reading.

In the magnificent building in the heart of Milan, planned by Lelio Buzzi and Francesco Maria Richini, the cardinal assembled one of the largest collections of Greek, Latin, vulgar and several oriental languages manuscripts, in addition to precious religious and private collections’ funds.

Books need skillful hands that take care of paper, binding and its finishing in order to resist to the signs of the time.

We will visit **the oldest bookbindery in Milan**, honored with the Historical Shop recognition, opened in 1870. From leather’s binding to marbled paper, everything is handcrafted according to ancient techniques handed down from generation to generation.

The bookbindery is located in the historical area of 5 Vie, the district that houses many artisan activities.

Photocourtesy: Dario Garofalo "Milano su misura"



WHERE & WHEN

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