

MILAN

Milan is Italy's most sophisticated city, a financial and commercial centre of world importance and a rival to Paris in the spheres of modern art and fashion. The whole fabric of the city - its many palaces, piazzas and churches - speaks of centuries of continuous prosperity.

CITY SIGHTS

Leonardo da Vinci's famous fresco, *The Last Supper*, may be viewed at the convent of Santa Maria della Grazie. The *Terra della Scala* remains the undisputed world capital of opera and is well worth viewing for its magnificent opulence. The world's second largest church, the Gothic *Duomo*, creates an impression of delicate and ethereal beauty due to its pale colour and the fine intricate carving that covers its exterior.



GETTING AROUND

Milan has an excellent system of public transportation; trolley cars, buses and a subway system, the *Metropolitana*, which runs on 3 lines. Tickets are purchased in advance at Duomo Metro and Stazione Centrale Metro stations. Taxis are also available but may seem expensive compared to those in the US.



MONEY

Banks are open Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 1:30 pm and 2:45 to 3:45 pm, except Wednesday when they're open nonstop.

Italy's currency is the Euro. Coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and 1 & 2 Euros. Bank notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 & 500 Euros are legal tender. A good number of hotels and travel agencies will change currency. Always count your change before you leave the counter.



TELEPHONES

Since hotels tend to overcharge for long distance calls and international calls, it is best to make such calls from Telefoni offices, where operators will assign you a booth, help you place your call, and collect payment when you have finished, at no extra charge. There are Telefoni offices, designated "telecom", in major train stations and in the central business districts.

Pay phone take coins, as well as phone tokens (gettone) and telephone cards.



POSTAGE

The Italian mail system is notoriously slow, you may arrive home before your postcard arrives. (Approximately 3 weeks delivery time) Postcards with a short message and a signature will cost approximately one Euro to send, but you will be charged the letter rate if the message is lengthy.



SHOPPING

Milan is Italy's capital of design and high fashion, and is *the* place to shop for quality clothes, accessories and luxury goods. The "Quadrilatero d'Oro" (Golden Quadrilateral), the area defined by Via Monte Napoleone, Via della Spiga, Via Borgo Spesso and Via Sant'Andrea, contains the top designer shops. For shopping - or simply strolling - in elegant surroundings, visit the 19th century Galleria Vittorio Emanuele.



EATING

Pasta, the national staple, comes in a variety of sizes and shapes, while risotto, or rice dishes, are also numerous. The classic Neapolitan pizza is made with marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese and anchovies. Prosciutto, a dark spicy ham usually served on melon, is a favorite appetizer while Antipasto, the Italian hors-d'oeuvre, is often a meal in itself. Tempting desserts range from fresh fruit to ices, or gelati. Locally made wine is the national beverage, but the meal's end is properly celebrated by drinking one or more cups of aromatic espresso coffee.

There is now a nationwide network for all emergency calls. Carabinieri (tel. 112). English-speaking officers are available 24 hours a day to deal with every kind of emergency.

The United States Consulate - Via Principe Amedeo 2, tel. 02/290351.