THE SFORZA CASTLE OF MILAN

Museum of Art and Arms

The collection features sculptures from excavations, religious buildings, city gates, and palazzi; these works, which document the style and taste of craftsmen between the 9th and 16th centuries, are accompanied by important sculptures from Tuscany. The vast collection is completed by tombs and inscriptions. The installation winds through the rooms of the ducal apartments decorated by Galleria Mario Silvestro (including the War chapel) and Ludovico il Moro, who commissioned the extraordinary Sala delle Asse (or "Room of the Wooden Beards"), designed by Leonardo da Vinci.

Other rooms document the Spanish domination. Among the masterpieces are the imposing 14th-century monument to Bernabò Visconti by Bonvesino da Campione, the elegant figures sculpted by the Tuscans Giovanni di Baldoccio to adorn the city gates, and the complex funerary monuments of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, created by Lombard between 1517 and 1522. Along the route there is also the Armeria (Sala XVI), which displays European firearms and blade weapons from the end of the 14th to the 19th century.

Antique Wooden Furniture and Sculptures Museum

This museum documents six hundred years of furniture history from the 15th to the 20th century, along with a collection of wooden sculptures. With an installation that recreates the real historical, artistic, and residential settings from which they came, the furnishings are brought together in coherent groups and juxtaposed with textile art objects, prints, and paintings in a highly original exibitional solution. Especially interesting is the section dedicated to contemporary furniture, with creations by masters of architecture and design such as Gio Ponti and Ette-Saltini.

Pinacoteca (Picture Gallery)

The installation of Milanese and Lombard paintings from the 15th to the 19th century, left to the city of Milan by noble families and collectors, is enriched by a selection of Venetian works and 17th-century Flemish and Dutch paintings. Alongside significant examples of the art of Foppa, Bramantino, Bernardino Luini and other key figures of Lombard painting, the museum also boasts paintings by Andrea Mantegna, Giovanni Bellini, Lorenzo Lotto, Correggio, Tintoretto and Canaletto. Sculptures, tapestries and medals are also featured in the installation, designed in 2005, in an artful interweaving of styles and sizes.

THE MUSEUMS

Museum of Decorative Arts

The Museum boasts a remarkable collection in terms of quality and quantity, making it one of the finest of its kind in Italy and among the most important internationally. Among the cases of the collection are Italian ceramics from the Renaissance to the 20th century, precious late-oniec and medieval items, medieval goldsmithery and Renaissance bronzes. In the Sala della Balia visitors can admire the complete cycle of the twelve Titinio Tapestries, designed by Bramantino in the opening years of the 1500s. Also noteworthy are the collection of Murano and Bohemian glass from the 15th to 18th century. Among the decorative arts of the 20th century are ceramics by Gia Ponti, Antonio Martinelli, and creations by Pininfarina. The layout of the Museum, revamped in 2017, enhances not only the artistic but also the functional value of the individual works, placing them in their historical and cultural context.

Multiform and colorful, the new artistic glass section features 45 works from the 1950s to the present, recently bequeathed to the Castle by the collector Sandro Raschi. Among the artists present are Ennio Bad, Marco Beltrami, Giardino Frattini, Jason Cervi, Dale Chihuly and Richard Whiteley.

Museum of Musical Instruments

The Castelli collection, one of the most important in Italy and Europe, consists of about 900 bowed, plucked, wind and keyboard instruments from Europe and elsewhere. Among the specimens on display, which date from the 16th to the 20th century, are a double violin by Johannes Ruckers, a viol by Giovanni Geminiani and an organ by Giovanni Maria Amati. Of particular interest is the equipment of the RAI Studi di Fonoteca Musicale in Milan, founded by Luciano Berio and Bruno Maderna. Between 1957 and 1983 the Studio produced experimental electronic music and soundtracks.

Museum of Archaeology — Prehistory and Protohistory section

The artifacts on display, mostly from Lombardy, demonstrate the stages of cultural and technological evolution of the Paleolithic period (8th-4th millennium BC) to Romanization (late 3rd-1st century BC). Chipped and polished stone, ceramics and weaving tools illustrate the innovations of the steleolithic period, while bronze objects such as axes, spears and funerary inlet introduce the different phases of the Bronze Age. The Iron Age is represented by rich funerary objects of the Italic-Lac, such as the exceptional "First Tomb of a Warrior" of Sesto Calende (late 7th century BC). The installation concludes with artifacts from Celtic culture (6th-1st century BC).
**Cultural Institutions**

### Historical and Trivulziana Library
The institute was created in 1935 from the fusion of the Milan Historical Archive and one of the most renowned private libraries in Europe, belonging to the Trivulzio family. The older part of the Archive conserves the acts of the Municipality of Milan and the Duchy (from 1306) while the modern part is dedicated to the acts of the city administration until 1927. In addition to private archival funds acquired over the years, the Library currently owns more than 1,200 manuscripts, 1,300 incunabula, 16,000 volumes from the 16th century, and over 180,000 printed editions. Notable among them is the extraordinary Codex Trivulzianus by Leonardo da Vinci. Since 1978 the institute has had an annexed laboratory for the restoration of books, documents and bound volumes.

### Ente Raccolta Vinciana
The “Raccolta” was founded in 1905 by the architect Luca Beltrami, who saw the need to create a collection of Leonardo da Vinci materials of all kinds. Now the world’s leading library dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, it was recognized by the Italian state as a charitable trust in 1955. The institute brings together 5,000 volumes including manuscripts, and ancient and modern editions of the great Tuscan artist published all over the world, as well as 2,000 photographs.

### Archaeological and Numismatic Library
The library was established in 1898 from the merger of the Library and archival collections of the Numismatic Cabinet of Brera and the Fabio Museum of Archaeology. It was relocated to the Castello after May 18, 1916. Today it has holdings numbering around 35,000 artifacts, including over a thousand ancient editions. There are also digital collections, with numerous documents, programs, correspondences and registers.

### CASVA, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts
The Castle hosts the consultative board of the CASVA, an institute dedicated to architecture, design, graphic design, figurative arts and visual arts. Founded in 1959 and active since 2002, the Center consists of the professional and permanent archives of architects, designers and graphic designers, giving priority to those who worked in Milan and Lombardy, especially in the 20th century. The professional archives include those of Biascetti, Sambonci and Gregotti.

### Civic Photographic Archive
Founded in 1933, the archive of 85,000 photographs is one of the most important institutes dedicated to the preservation of Italy’s photographic heritage. It assembles original material from 1880 to the present, documenting not only the evolution of photographic techniques, but also historical events, social life, artistic heritage and travel. Among the most important collections are those of Luca Beltrami and Umberto Vitali, art historian, scholar and collector of Italian photography.

### Drawing Cabinet
The institute, which has been collecting the drawings that have flowed into the individual collections since 1862, today preserves about 28,000 graphic works from the 14th to the 20th century. Among the artists represented are Leonardo, Rambaldi, Boccaccio and Wilt. The collection is made up of studies, figurative drawings from Italian and foreign schools, architecture and ornamental drawings.

### Museum of Archaeology – Egyptian Section
The collection, one of the most important in Italy, offers an interesting cross-section of the most significant aspects of Egypt’s complex society, complete with pharaohs, scarabs and craftsmen. In addition to objects of everyday use, visitors can admire anthropomorphic and zoomorphic divinities, smiles, guardian statues (sobek) that accompanied the deceased in the afterlife, sarcophagi and even mummies. There is a section dedicated to the excavations conducted in the 19th century by professor Achille Vogliano in Fayum, in the ancient village of Sallinisis, and in the second area of Medinet Madi, where he discovered an important temple. Among the finds was a statue of Pharaoh Amenemhat III (17th century BC), founder of the temple.

### Art Library
Among the most important Italian librarians specializing in art, it has a patrimony of more than 100,000 volumes dedicated to the figurative arts, musicology, museology, architecture, design and fashion. It also has a collection of rare editions, including a significant series of artistic in-folio atlases from the 17th to the 19th century, an ancient collection of several thousand editions from the 10th to the 19th century, a special collection of artists’ books and papers with originals by Kandinsky and De Chirico, among others. The 1,600 art periodicals and serial collections of the library can be consulted at the Ernesto, on site.