

Milan

From design and fashion to understated elegance and quirky new launches, Italy's northern powerhouse continues to play to its strengths.

Writer — Laura Rysman



NUN BETTER Four Seasons

Spanning a 15th-century convent and an 18th-century palazzo, Milan's Four Seasons hotel is steeped in history. Now its bar and restaurant are adding a contemporary touch with a revamp by Milan-based Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola. The granite columns, frescoes and mosaic floors remain but are complemented by a circular marble bar and globe-shaped lamps; the cellar with its new spa, with a pool under a vaulted brick ceiling. Built around a topiaried garden, the hotel is a retreat from the bustle of its upscale Montenapoleone district – all the better for lounging outside in one of Urquiola's rope-woven Cassina chairs, drink in hand. fourseasons.com

DESIGN OF THE TIMES ADI MUSEUM

About 2,000 projects feature in this museum dedicated to the Compasso d'Oro prize. The result is a line-up of design greats including Achille Castiglioni, Enzo Mari, Tobia Scarpa and Bob Noorda. Temporary exhibits span topics from graphic novels to Campari's Futurist publicity. adidesignmuseum.org



VINTAGE NOTES Palinurobar

When an artist, a DJ, a writer and a sommelier transformed a 1980s café in Porta Venezia into natural winery Palinurobar, they retained the venue's vintage counter, adding a squiggly neon sign. "We knew we could bring together a music-oriented community with good wine at its heart," says co-founder Davide Coppo of the Japanese-style listening bar. On the menu are 500 wines from small and mostly biodynamic producers, accompanied by sharing plates such as fava bean purée with friarielli greens.

Via Giovanni Paisiello, 28



SIMPLE SOLE A DI GAETA

"Buying something and keeping it for a long time is an idea that belongs to our grandparents," says designer Angelica di Gaeta. "But I believe in durability." Having co-founded shoe brand Aeyde in Berlin, Di Gaeta moved back to her native Italy to start a new project. A di Gaeta offers simple but considered boots, moccasins and heels. Her designs are made by a family business in Marche, using calfskin or waxed nubuck. Thanks to spats and gaiters, many of the designs adapt to different seasons. "If you can change something according to your needs, you will keep it for longer," she says. adigaeta.com



FLORAL PATTERN TEAROSE

"Society needs to get back to a sense of beauty," says Alessandra Rovati Vitali, who founded florist and clothing shop Tearose more than 25 years ago. Over this whimsical independent's two floors, sitting in the shadow of Armani's huge Montenapoleone complex, the scent of flowers combines with perfumes sourced from niche brands. And there's beauty aplenty in the masterful floral arrangements, plus clothes by the likes of Blazé, Agnona, Marni and Galvan London, as well as vintage pieces. "Colour has always been key for me," says Rovati Vitali. "Tearose is about an entire lifestyle. Flowers, fashion and good taste – all make life beautiful." tearose.it

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Sara Magni, Rozete Rago. IMAGES: Imogen Cunningham Trust. STILL LIFE: Pelle Crépin



PHOTO FINISH Imogen Cunningham

This exhibition of Imogen Cunningham's work at the Getty, the first in the US in 35 years, is set to finally add her name to the pantheon of America's photography greats.

Born in 1883, Cunningham became a photographer after graduating in chemistry. Her strikingly modern, varied work runs from naturalistic portraits (she asked her subjects to think of the nicest thing they could imagine when photographing them) to Pre-Raphaelite-inspired, dreamy vignettes. There is also ahead-of-its-time street photography and botanical studies with the feel of Robert Mapplethorpe.

In the 1910s, Cunningham wrote of her struggles being a female photographer in a male profession and mentored and supported younger talents. In 1932 she moved to San Francisco and met Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, and went on to co-found f/64, a group that encouraged modernism in photography.

She continued to look to new ideas: she protested against the Vietnam War and spoke out about racial injustice. "She refused to accept the prevailing notion, during the first decade of the 20th century, that being a photographer was not an appropriate profession for women," says Getty curator Paul Martineau. "She worked hard and she continued to find ways to learn and grow as an artist into old age."

Imogen Cunningham runs until 12 June; getty.edu



BOLD BIJOUX SOPHIE BUHAI

Having already co-founded fashion label Vena Cava, Parsons School of Design graduate Sophie Buhai moved back from New York to Los Angeles in 2015 and launched her jewellery studio. Six years on, after a bijoux collaboration with Lemaire, Buhai expanded her eponymous brand. With an aesthetic that adds nature-inspired flourishes to minimalist designs, she has found a loyal following: her hoop earrings are a bestseller and her ice-cold blue chalcodony bead necklace, chunky silver bracelets and onyx rings are also standout pieces. She recently launched a range of objects for the home: silver boxes and letter openers made a welcome addition to the collection. sophiebuhai.com

In Los Angeles for the sunshine and the surf? Make time for some shopping, from the coolest boutiques to the best new name in denim, and a long-overdue exhibition at the Getty.

Writer — Lauren Cochrane

JEAN GENIUS SLVRLAKE

Los Angeles is known for its home-grown denim brands but one of its most interesting jean specialists, SlvrLake, was founded in 2018 by two Brits. Still, husband-and-wife team Gary and Louise Edgley have the necessary pedigree: he masterminded the denim offering at London's Selfridges, while she was in marketing for a jeans brand back in the UK. For its "Made in LA" models, SlvrLake does away with distressed finishes, stretchy fabrics and big logos, placing its focus on fit and effortless cuts instead. Cue the appropriately named Beatnik, a straight-leg, high-waist design with a classic American feel that's ready to be taken on the road. slvrLake-denim.com



THE EDIT Teller

The newest addition to Culver City's Platform, an open-air shopping mall that's home to independent boutiques, including The Monocle Shop, Teller opened in 2021. The multi-brand store quickly became a favourite for women after standout smart pieces. Co-founder and lead buyer Jaime Fishbein tells us more.

What's the idea behind Teller? It's an edit of more than 70 independent labels, with an eye towards discovery, hero pieces and building blocks. A few of my favourite up-and-coming brands for spring are Róhe, Esse and Bondi Born.

How does it sit in the wider concept of Platform? Teller is created by the Platform team and the two concepts spotlight independent brands from around the globe. Some brands at Platform are planning their own pop-ups.

How would you describe Los Angeles style in 2022? People are having fun with fashion right now. Women want to wear an interesting neckline or show a little skin – all for the fun of it. tellershop.com



COMFORT ZONE Béatrice Valenzuela

Artist and designer Béatrice Valenzuela grew up between Paris, Mexico City and Los Angeles. She started her brand in 2009; 13 years later she is known for an aesthetic that feels charming and bohemian without straying into trite clichés.

Besides silk slip dresses, clogs and jewellery, her line has found success thanks to her signature made-in-LA Sandalia, a simple slide that adds a

soft leather upper to a classic sporty shape, often spotted on the feet of well-dressed women in LA's artier neighbourhoods. "It has a balance of ugly and soft and kind of cool," she says. "People want to be a bit playful when they get dressed."

Coming soon: a new colour range for Sandalias and irreverent prints for her garments. "My dream is that when people wear my designs, they feel comfortable. They don't feel like they need to tug at them or constantly fiddle," she says. "I love when I see people being confident in their choices. That is so very sensual." beatricevalenzuela.com