

OUTPOSTS

Photographer — Luigi Fiano
Writer — Laura Rysman

Bologna

Make the most of what's on your doorstep. These are the places to see, shops to visit, restaurants to sample and hotels to stay in on your next long weekend.

RESTAURANT Grassilli

“Traditional cuisine as an art,” says chef Jean David Durussel of the restaurant his Swiss father took over in 1978. Located in Bologna’s historic centre, this cosy time capsule is covered in black-and-white photos of the actors and musicians who performed here when it opened as a music bar decades earlier. Today, pasta is made with old-fashioned rolling pins by father and son each morning. Durussel circles the room to chat after every service. “Our heritage demands effort,” he says.

ristorantegrassilli.weebly.com



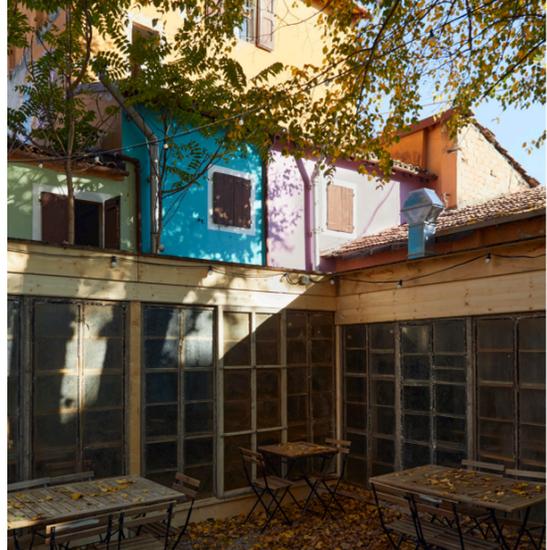
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WELL BREAD MAMBO

Located in the vast confines of a public bakery built to help Bologna through the First World War, Mambo remains in the service of the city as its main destination for modern and contemporary art. With the landscape for museums drastically altered in 2020, Mambo launched its Nuovo Forno del Pane, a collection of studios for artists. “We couldn’t reopen the museum in the same way, so we decided the right way to respond to the moment was to give the space to artists,” says director Lorenzo Balbi. “It’s a chance to redefine the museum as a public space not just for exhibitions but for art production as well.” The studios are visible from the museum halls, where the works on view switch between its collection and that of the Giorgio Morandi museum. mambo-bologna.org



HOLDING COURT BORGO MAMELI

The courtyard of a dilapidated barracks has been reimaged as a vibrant sanctuary in an otherwise quiet part of town, serving artisanal beers, natural wine and gourmet cocktails, along with food from four on-site kitchens. “Bologna is very experimental and open to new cultural ideas,” says Giacomo Berti Arnoaldi Veli, who founded Borgo Mameli with Renato Lideo and a group of entrepreneurs after purchasing the property at auction. “We love our city and we think it needs an idea with some international inspiration – like this one.” borgomameli.it

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Where the LOCALS shop

1. **Guifriday**
In his one-year-old, pocket-sized atelier, Fabio Giuffrida transforms raw wool into hats finished with whimsical details, such as hand-embroidered messages and small stones, adhering strictly to a custom-made ethos. “It’s an approach completely opposed to today’s market,” he says. Found near the beautiful Piazza Santo Stefano, the shop is lined with hats and the wooden blocks on which they’re made. “I dusted off an old profession that doesn’t exist anymore,” says Giuffrida. guifriday.it



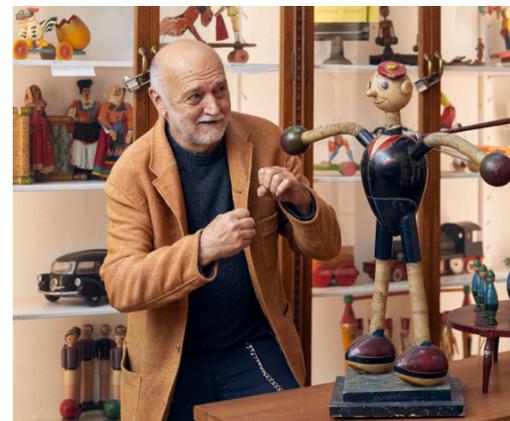
SOLE FOCUS Officina del Poggio

Bologna-based Officina del Poggio’s (odp) handcrafted leather bags are beloved by Italy’s fashion set. Now designer Allison Hoeltzel Savini is expanding her vision with an artisan-driven capsule collection of footwear essentials. “Women’s shoes, with the solidity and the craftsmanship of men’s shoes,” is how she describes them. Bologna was once a centre for artisanal shoe-making; today only the workshop of Enzo Bonafè continues to manufacture using traditional methods, manually stitching hand-hammered uppers to a leather sole for extra comfort and a slim shape. Made in collaboration with Bonafè, odp’s shoes include flat Mary Janes and iconic Chelsea boots that employ these time-honoured Bolognese techniques. “I was so enamoured by the process at Bonafè – it’s a jewel in my backyard,” says Hoeltzel Savini. The shoes are available through her website and take three weeks to make. The new styles present a stimulating challenge for the old shoe-maker, says Massimo Bonafè, the second generation cordwainer in the workshop: “You’d be surprised how difficult it is to find fresh ideas in the world of classic shoe-making.” officinadelpoggio.com



2. **Cristian Defranchi Jewellery**
Located along the bustling, picturesque market street of Via Drapperie, Cristian Defranchi’s shop offers fine jewellery flanked by fishmongers and fruit stands. This has long been a go-to place in Bologna for gold and diamond goods (and occasional experiments with silver, aluminium or wood) cleverly fashioned into geometric designs featuring movable and interchangeable parts. cristiandefranchi.it

3. **Freak Andò**
“I’m a fan of the avant garde of every age,” says Maurizio Marzadori, whose vintage design store is a haven for lovers of hard-to-find furniture from every era. Situated in an airy 16th-century cloister, the reverie-inducing shop is “the opposite of monothematic,” he says, with arts and crafts furniture displayed next to futurist toys and postmodern chairs. freakando.com



4. **Forno Brisa**
Founded by Davide Sarti and Pasquale Polito in 2015, Forno Brisa now has more than 30 co-owners, many of whom have added their own expertise to this Bologna phenomenon, which was born as an eco-conscious bread bakery growing its own wheat. With three sites in Bologna, it now offers much more – from addictive Galliera hazelnut cookies, to its own ethically sourced coffee and chocolate bars made with cocoa beans roasted in the bread oven, all fabricated at its laboratory in the Bolognina neighbourhood. The shop’s first book is a teaching tool for others interested in copying its success and its sustainable approach to food. fornobrisa.it



HARD TO BEAT Camera a Sud

Bologna is a student town – raffish, leftist and where people are happiest with a good drink in an unpretentious bar. Camera a Sud has been a favourite since opening more than a decade ago, enticing students and intellectuals with its changing line-up of natural wine, artisanal amaro and specialty cocktails, including negronis made with local ingredients. On a recent evening, a young man sat alone at the bar reading poetry while a group of friends talked of revolutionising the country’s politics over a third round of aperitivos. “It’s like our home,” says Roberta Rondelli, who founded Camera a Sud with her husband Roberto Spagnolo, of the space filled with books and vintage furniture. cameraasud.net



SWEET TREAT ROCCATI

Hailing from a Turinese family of royal chocolatiers, Irene Roccati brings her ancestors’ regally high standards to the chocolates that she crafts in her sleek modern kitchen, which adjoins a chic little boutique in downtown Bologna. “Our chocolates are sold almost the moment they’re made the result is a freshness that’s extremely hard to find,” she says. roccaticioccolato.com



STYLE STOP FR

Nestled among the old market emporia around Via Drapperie is the city’s chicest destination, the FR boutique. It’s a contemporary interpretation of art deco designed by architect Roberto Baciocchi in 2017 when FR was born from the union of two long-running shops, Folli Follie and Ratti. “Bologna has a lot of very fashion-loving, very feminine women,” says Eleonora Accolti Gil, womenswear buyer at FR. “The city’s big industries feed a certain level of luxury.” friboutique.it



PHOTOGRAPHER: Luigi Fiano. STILL LIFE: Pelle Crépin