

Naples

From taking in the panoramic view on Posillipo hill to walking the elegant boulevards of Chiaia, Naples is a city of many different rhythms – but its creatives all share a taste for flamboyance and elegance.

Writer — Laura Rysman



HAMMER IT HOME Paola Grande

The fourth and fifth generation in a family of jewellers, mother-daughter team Paola Grande and Giulia Di Pace-Grande is the force behind this jewellery line. As well as a pocket-sized boutique in the Chiaia neighbourhood, the brand also has a sister shop in Milan. Naples, however, is the heart of the company: it's here that every piece is handcrafted by the city's goldsmiths. While old-school Neapolitan jewellery usually tends towards the baroque, Paola Grande's creations are minimalist and contemporary.

"We differentiate ourselves by following the desires of today's modern and dynamic women, rather than sticking to tradition," says Di Pace-Grande, who designs the line. The most recent collections include necklaces, bracelets and slender hoop earrings splayed with small diamonds, alongside pyramid rings and diamond bands composed of different stone shapes. Pieces in silver and bronze provide more affordable versions of many designs. paolagrandegioielli.com



PHOTOGRAPHER: Rocco Rovandelli. STILL LIFE: Pelle Crépin



HOLY COMMUNION Made in Cloister

Set inside a converted 16th-century monastery, Made in Cloister is a contemporary art foundation that invites international creatives and designers for residencies, where they collaborate with artisans. Site-specific works line the walls of the courtyard, overlooked by the abbey's historic frescoes. In the large refectory, sleek tables welcome visitors at a bar that, thanks to chef Massimo Bottura's philanthropic Food for Soul project, serves meals to the neighbourhood's needy every Monday. "After years of abandonment, we've rehabilitated the space for the community and transformed it into a reference point for the rebirth of the area," says the foundation's director, Davide di Blasio.

The surrounding Porta Capuana district was long-neglected by the city and its visitors but this cultural centre is heralding a new era. The current exhibition, running until September, includes works by Maurizio Cattelan and Laurie Anderson. Nextdoor, the church of Santa Caterina has one of Naples's finest Renaissance interiors. madeincloister.com



SIMPLE PLEASURES Jus

Across Italy, there's a growing taste for restaurants dedicated to natural wine and vegetable-focused small plates: places where the nation's bountiful agricultural producers can take centre stage. In Naples, Jus is a great opening in this vein. The cosy bar's wine list puts an emphasis on small producers from the Campania region but also features bottles sourced from vineyards across Europe and Japan. Every Tuesday night, blind tastings help the curious to develop a taste for natural wine. "Every glass recounts something unique about its territory and its maker," says founder Diego Amura, a well-known DJ who has installed turntables here to keep the background music interesting. And Jus's seemingly simple dishes – roasted carrots with chestnut honey, leeks with a smoked cheese and *katsuobushi* flakes – are simply irresistible. jusenotecanaturale.superbexperience.com

AHEAD OF THE PACK Ex Voto

An unexpected high-fashion big hitter inside an intimate two-floor building in Chiaia, Ex Voto has been bringing cutting-edge styles to Naples for more than a decade. Here you'll find the city's best selection of Japanese and Belgian designers (such as Dries Van Noten, Yohji Yamamoto and Commes des Garçons), alongside Italians including Plan C, Antonio Marras, Vivetta and Philosophy by Lorenzo Serafini. Emerging brands like Vaquera, Erl and Liberal Youth of Ministry are also on the shelves. Steering the ship is Italo Mosca, a Naples native whose mission is to convince his compatriots to dare to wear more sophisticated fashion. That has helped him to build a loyal clientele. "They turn to me for taste, not for the label of the moment," he says. exvotoboutique.com



BREEZY DIGS PRIMO PIANO POSILLIPO

Facing the waters of the Bay of Naples, this four-room B&B makes beautiful use of its position in Posillipo, the cliffside neighbourhood just outside the city's centre. Inside, the spaces have been designed by architect Giuliano Andrea dell'Uva, making use of his signature surrealist touch and a bright-hued palette. The intimate space mixes the 19th-century building's antique elements, including majolica tiles and soaring wood ceilings, with 1970s and 1980s furnishings and contemporary pieces. "It's a place uniquely distinguished by design in Naples, where such attention to modern style is rare," says owner Francesca Carpentieri. "Even if it's small, the aesthetics render it a luxury stay." Carpentieri can also arrange boat tours of the nearby Marechiaro shore, Capri and other nearby islands. primopianoposillipo.it



IN WITH THE OLD DOCTOR VINTAGE

This treasure trove of French and Italian clothing has some of Europe's best sartorial finds, alongside new shoes from labels such as Prada, Hermès, Saint Laurent and Christian Louboutin. Owner Rosario Recano hails from a humble family of fishermen but his shop's taste is undoubtedly chic. Sourcing from the Naples



countryside, where the vintage market has been one of Italy's strongest since the postwar era, Recano looks for "beautiful pieces with high-quality fabrics but also the incredible class of the past, in styles that still look current today". The proof is in the number of designers who turn to the boutique to find inspiration for their contemporary fashion lines. 23C.Via.Giuseppe.Fiorelli



TASTEFUL DESIGN Astrid Luglio

Growing up between her native Naples and Oslo, Astrid Luglio learnt how to appreciate "the poetry of the everyday in Naples". Today she tries to highlight that through design objects made to increase the pleasure of eating. She creates pieces that underline the sensory experience of a specific ingredient. They include her Camera Olfattiva, a hand-blown bubble of glass conceived for tasting balsamic vinegar. These "amplifiers of smells" have been adopted by the official balsamic vinegar consortium. The item pictured, from her Disordine series, is designed to bring a touch of unpredictability and fun to the table. astridluglio.com

