

MILAN

Armani goodies, chocolates, bespoke perfume – Milan has indulgent gifts galore, says **Karen Glaser**.
Photography by **Edoardo Tomaselli**

FOR SMELLING SWEET L'OLFATTORIO

It looks like a high-end bar, but the only liquid on sale here is perfume. The glass vials lining the floor-to-ceiling shelves of L'Olfattorio – located in Excelsior Milano, the city's newest shopping emporium – contain handmade scents from all corners of the Earth. An expert "bartender" will guide you through them to create your own unique fragrance.



EXCELSIOR MILANO, 4 GALLERIA DEL CORSO, TEL: +39 02 8907 0546, WWW.EXCELSIORMILANO.COM, WWW.OLFATTORIO.IT

FOR THE TOY BOX CITTÀ DEL SOLE

This colourful shop has an unrivalled selection of educational and made-to-last toys: a welcome antidote to computer gadgetry. Brands like Brio and Galt vie for your attention with lesser-known names. The helpful and patient staff, many of whom speak English, are happy to gift-wrap. BRANCHES INCLUDE 13 VIA OREFICI, TEL: +39 02 8646 1683, WWW.CITTADELSOLE.IT

FOR FEEDING THE MIND HOEPLI

This six-floor monument to reading is the



COOL SCOOP

- Cioccolat Italiani
- Stationery cave Fabriano
- Città del Sole is toy-tastic
- Design goodies at High Tech

biggest bookshop in Italy. Its 500,000 titles include a good range of English and German texts and, this being Milan, design and fashion tomes galore. In addition, Hoepli's labyrinthine corridors and staircases will take you on lots of unexpected reading adventures: a 1904 edition of the *Divine Comedy*, anyone?

5 VIA ULRICO HOEPLI, TEL: +39 02 864871, WWW.HOEPLI.IT

FOR SOMETHING TASTY PECK

Combine Italy's flair for design with its passion for food and drink and you get Peck – an upscale delicatessen that has been tickling Milanese taste buds since 1883. Gourmands from across the globe head here for beautifully packaged speciality foods like green-pepper vinegar, toasted



hazelnuts in acacia honey and expensive white truffles from Piedmont.

9 VIA SPADARI, TEL: +39 02 802 3161, WWW.PECK.IT

FOR LABEL LOVERS ARMANI MANZONI 31

If you love all things Giorgio, you will probably want to move into this gargantuan store, which sells everything from the designer's high-fashion creations to its own chocolates at Armani Dolci. You could well spend an afternoon here flicking through the rails, sipping coffee in the café, browsing the well-stocked bookshop and trying out the latest perfumes – before popping to the on-site florist's. Armani Casa, its homewares brand, is just a few doors down.

31 VIA MANZONI, TEL: +39 02 7231 8600, WWW.ARMANI-VIAMANZONI31.IT



Since it opened two years ago, this chocolatier has taken Milan by storm: no mean feat in a city whose cup overfloweth with chocolate houses

FOR DESIGN DELIGHT HIGH TECH

It's not easy for an interiors store to stand out in this capital of design, but High Tech does just that. Located in a former ink factory, the shop sells everything from candles and cutlery to bags and bathroom accessories. In short, more present ideas for the design-conscious than you could throw an Alessi corkscrew at.

12 PIAZZA XXV APRILE, TEL: +39 02 624 1101, WWW.HIGH-TECHMILANO.COM

FOR STATIONERY FABRIANO BOUTIQUE

Selling linen pencil cases, perfumed paper, origami sets, drum-dyed calf leather wallets, traditional Venetian rulers and hand-bound notebooks, this high-end stationer's is packed

to the rafters with stocking-fillers. Everything is made in Italy, so this is a great place for a gift or souvenir from your trip.

17 VIA PONTE VETERO, TEL: +39 02 7631 8754, WWW.FABRIANOBOUTIQUE.COM

FOR CHOCOLATICS CIOCCOLAT ITALIANI

Since it opened two years ago, this chocolatier has taken Milan by storm: no mean feat in a city whose cup overfloweth with chocolate houses. The centrepiece of the urban cool interior, also home to an ice-cream parlour, is the open-plan laboratory where you can see the shop's trademark 1kg ingots of chocolate and spiced bombons as works in progress.

6 VIA SAN RAFFAELE, TEL: +39 02 8909 3820, WWW.CIOCCOLATITALIANI.IT