

Brought to you by:



# MILAN 101: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MOVING TO MILAN FOR THREE YEARS

Curated by  
**Lia Bassanini**  
**Aahana Mishra**

2023-2024 Edition

Find out more at:  
[astrabocconi.it](https://astrabocconi.it)

This guide has no intention of substituting the material published by the University,  
that has to be considered the only official source of news on this topic.

Questa guida non è concepita in sostituzione al material rilasciato dall'Università,  
che è da considerarsi l'unica fonte ufficiale di notizie sull'argomento.

# LIVING IN MILAN

By Lia Bassanini (+39 375 789 4890)

Aahana Mishra (+39 351 771 1523)

Giulia Chiorazzo (+39 389 936 6607)

If you have more questions, you can contact them, Sara D'Apice (+39 339 626 9620), Head of Student Services, or Lucrezia Merico (+39 320 441 9935), Head of the Project Guides!

## 1. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES/THINGS TO SEE

Here is a non-exhaustive list of things that are worth visiting in Milan.

- **THE DUOMO OF MILAN** ★★★

The Duomo is the most famous cathedral of Milan. It is the symbol of the city. To visit it, you can either book tickets in advance or just show up during the opening hours (however, beware, the line can be fairly long). From its roof, you can get a breathtaking view of Milan. If you want to take your picture with it in the background (as any respectable tourist should do, at least once in their life), we advise you to go there at night, around 10-11 pm, when it is a bit less crowded. Furthermore, you will get to see the monument under a completely different new light. The Duomo also organizes many different events that you can find on their website: <https://www.duomomilano.it/en/>.

- **THE GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II** ★★★

The Galleria is the long (and very crowded, at least during the day) path that takes you from the Duomo to the Scala. It is where you can find most luxury brands, from Prada to Dior, but also under which you can find one of Milan's biggest bookstores, the Feltrinelli. If you pass by the Galleria, don't forget to crush the Taurus's balls by doing three turns on your heel for good luck. This tradition comes from the ancestral rivalry between Milan and Turin, whose symbol is the Taurus.

- **THE TEATRO ALLA SCALA** ★★

The Scala is the opera of Milan. You will certainly be disappointed by the outside structure, which, in fact, doesn't deserve one single star, but as one says, "don't judge a book by its cover". Indeed, you will probably find that the inside of the opera is worth a visit. You can buy a ticket that will take you through a tour of the place (which you don't need to book in advance, just go to the office on the left of the building) or even buy a place for a show.

- **BRERA** ★★★

When talking about Brera (★★★), one can refer both to the neighborhood and to the Pinacoteca di Brera (★★), which both deserve, in our opinion, to give it a look.

Brera is one of the fanciest neighborhoods in Milan, known for its via Monte Napoleone, where you can find all luxury brands, but also for its small, old fashioned and very pretty streets. You can also find in Brera some of the nicest spots to get a drink, an aperitivo or dinner with friends.

The Pinacoteca is at the center of the neighborhood. It is situated in the same building as the Academy of Fine Arts. It was built by Napoleon, who wanted it to become the milanese Louvre, which is why you will find several statues of him in the building. The Pinacoteca is a museum that contains a lot of classical Italian paintings, worth seeing, at least once in your life.



- **THE MUSEO DEL NOVECENTO ☆☆**  
This museum is located at the very center of the city, on the piazza del Duomo. You can't miss it when looking at the Duomo, since it is right on the right. The Museo del Novecento contains plenty of art from the 20th century from both Italian and international artists. What makes the visit really magical however, is the view you get on the Duomo from the top of the museum, at the end of the visit.
- **THE CASTELLO SFORZESCO ☆☆**  
It takes its name after the Duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza, who had it built somewhere in between 1360 and 1499. From the center of its courtyard, you can get an amazing view, on one side of the Duomo, and on the other of Parco Sempione. The castle also hosts a museum that focuses mainly on war attire.
- **THE PARCO SEMPIONE ☆☆☆**  
This is the biggest park in Milan, perfect for a picnic and a lazy afternoon sunbathing.
- **GIARDINI INDRÒ MONTANELLI ☆☆☆**  
Another one of Milan's most beautiful parks, where to go for a walk and see dogs or simply where to go if you want to chill with a good book.
- **CITY LIFE ☆☆**  
City Life is the newest neighborhood of the city, located in the north west part. It is where a lot of big firms have their headquarters in Italy (you might even end up working there someday!). There is a pretty big mall and the architecture of the buildings is rather interesting.
- **PORTA VENEZIA ☆☆☆**  
Porta Venezia is an eastern neighborhood of Milan that some consider to be the gay neighborhood. Just like the Marais in Paris, it is full of life and has many fun bars where to take a drink with friends, as well as several gay nightclubs.
- **THE CENACOLO OF LEONARDO DA VINCI ☆☆☆**  
It is one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous paintings, in the heart of Milan, easily accessible from the Cadorna Station or by foot from the Duomo. In order to visit it, you have to book your tickets, sometimes several weeks in advance.
- **SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE ☆☆**  
Right next to the Cenacolo, it is one of Milan's most famous and most beautiful churches, aside from the Duomo.
- **SANT'AMBROGIO ☆☆**  
The other most visited cathedral of Milan that is worth visiting, especially on the 7th of December, day of the celebration of said saint.
- **THE FONDAZIONE PRADA ☆**  
It is a museum, a little far out of town, close to the Isonzo and Dubini residences, where you can get pretty fancy Instagram pictures and see the studio of French movie director, Jean-Luc Godard. Some consider it a little overrated but it is a fun place where to go with friends for a chill afternoon in Milan.
- **NAVIGLI ☆☆☆**  
The Navigli are the two canals of Milan, where there are a lot of bars and a lot of tourists. It is a great place to get a drink or have typical milanese dishes (even though you can get scammed on the prices because of how many tourists there are). If you are lucky enough, you might find yourself there at the same time as the flea market takes place, where you can always find great pieces at affordable prices. However, it



is not advised to walk through there alone in the middle of the night, especially where the two Navigli meet, at the Darsena.

## 2. WHERE TO GO SHOPPING

- Via Torino
- Corso di Porta Ticinese
- Rinascente
- Corso Vittorio Emanuele II
- Via Monte Napoleone (very expensive)
- The East Side Market (huge flea market taking place usually every last Sunday of the month)

## 3. WHERE TO EAT/DRINK

### RESTAURANTS :

- Cascina Cuccagna
- Longoni
- Tenoa
- Base Milano
- Combo
- Spoon
- Lubar
- Bagni misteriosi
- Le Officine
- Colibrì
- Fonderie Milanesi
- Pastamadre
- Magolfa
- Ristorante della Pinacoteca di Brera
- Tom
- Forest Woodbar
- PS Bar
- La Spritzeria
- Fontanella
- Crazy Cat Café
- L'Égalité (french Boulangerie)

### TERRACES :

- Globe
- Base
- The Roof
- Terrazza Martini
- Terrazza Duomo 21
- Terrazza Aperol



## WHERE TO PARTY

- Tom (mostly Italian music) – casual/elegant
- Magazzini Generali – casual
- The Club – elegant
- Old Fashion – elegant
- Nepentha – casual
- Gattopardo – elegant
- Apophis – casual
- Superlove – casual
- Rocket (mainly techno) – casual/extravagant
- Terrazza Martini – elegant
- Terrazza Duomo 21- elegant
- Terrazza Aperol – elegant
- Jazz Cafè – casual/elegant
- Art Mall – casual
- Volt – casual/elegant (don't wear a shirt or else you risk to not get in)
- Apollo Club – elegant
- Just Cavalli – casual

## 4. HOW AND WHERE TO GET AN APARTMENT

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RENTING AN APARTMENT IN ITALY...

In addition to rent, tenants of an apartment must have compulsory insurance and are required to pay service charges.

There are also regulations, of which tenants should receive a copy.

Service charges (fees) usually include heating, hot water, trash removal, grounds and garden maintenance, elevator use, lighting and maintenance of common areas, and possibly concierge service.

Tenants usually pay utilities such as gas, electricity and water separately. You should always check whether or not the rental price includes charges ; this information is usually stated in the advertisements.

Utility charges are calculated monthly or for each quarter (to be paid together with the rent) and their amount depends on different characteristics, they are usually higher in a new building than in an old one.

They can vary widely, from 20 to 200 euros per month.

When formalizing a contract, it would be a good idea to ask to see a copy of the previous year's bills to get an idea of the additional costs.

When signing the lease, the new tenant should also ask to see the telephone and utility bills (electricity, gas, and water) and verify that the previous tenant has paid the bills to date, otherwise the new tenant could be held responsible for any debts and obligated to pay them.

### UNDERSTAND THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY'S RENTAL OFFER...

If an apartment, house, or villa is selected for rent through a real estate agency, the prospective tenant may sign a rental offer (rental proposal) with the agent. This procedure is legally regarded as a pre-contract.



The written offer must state the following :

- Name and address of the tenant and landlord.
- Address of the property
- Brief description of the size of the property
- Amount of rent offered
- Date of availability requested
- Property requirements regarding repairs or furnishing requests
- Duration of the validity of the offer (usually 2 to 8 days)

The offer is accompanied by an agreed deposit.

The offer is submitted to the landlord for approval. If the offer is accepted, the tenant and landlord proceed to the actual contract and the money advanced is returned or subtracted from the final amount.

If the offer is not accepted, the money is returned. If the offer is accepted and the person chooses not to rent the property, he or she will probably lose the money.

### **UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A PROPERTY LEASE IN ITALY...**

The new rental legislation was introduced in 1999, and since then there have been two types of rental contracts :

- An open-market contract : free-market contract.
- A convention contract : convention contract (contains predetermined conditions).

The free-market contract has a term of four years, renewable for an additional four-year period, in which the tenant and landlord agree on terms with each other.

The convention contract is a three-year contract with a two-year renewal option, although the initial term can be extended to five years without a renewal option.

These new contracts replace the old contracts of fair rent and long-term covenants in derogation, although these contracts remain valid until their expiration, when they are replaced by one of the new contracts.

Luxury apartments, public housing, and tourist apartments are exempt from the free market contracts.

If applicable, a « tenants and owners » association must usually approve contracts for apartments. To be valid, the contract must be registered with the local registry office. Registration fees are 2 percent of the annual rent plus government stamps (vignettes). Registration fees for furnished properties are about 3% of the annual rent. These fees are normally divided between the landlord and the tenant.

If a landlord needs to reclaim a property before the free market contract expires, he or she may do so by giving the tenant six months' notice (termination) in writing, but only under certain conditions. These include the need to use the property for personal use, for a child getting married, for an elderly parent or in-law, or to make improvements or repairs before selling it. However, if within one year the property is not used for the purpose stated in the notice, the landlord must renew the original lease with the same tenant or pay an amount equal to three years' rent as compensation.

Otherwise, the landlord can only reclaim a property with six months' notice of the expiration date of the lease. If the landlord wishes to sell the property, the tenant has the first option to buy.

An agreement contract includes properties rented under national agreements between real estate associations and tenants' unions, which set the rent. It is possible to terminate the agreement before the first due date, and the landlord must give the tenant six months' notice before the first due date.



An agreement contract can also include short-term leases for students and transient workers. The regulations provide tax breaks for landlords and establish a national fund to help low-income families who qualify for public housing but are forced to rent apartments on the open market due to the lack of public housing.

Although all addresses are potentially suitable for residence, some rental agreements prohibit the use of an apartment address for this purpose. Such leases are mostly used with foreigners, so that the owner can re-occupy his property more easily if he so desires. Evicting a person from his legal residence is almost impossible in Italy, and landlords do not want to take unnecessary risks with foreigners.

When moving in, tenants may be required to sign an inventory of the property's contents (furniture, fixtures, and furnishings) and agree on the conditions of these...

When moving into a property for a long-term lease, an inventory (inventory) of its contents and a report on its condition must be completed. The inventory in most cases is prepared by the property owner or agency, and is then submitted to the tenants.

The inventory includes the condition of fixtures and equipment, the condition of furniture and furnishings, the cleanliness and condition of decorations, and anything that is damaged, missing, or in need of repair.

Checking the inventory must be done in the presence of the tenant, whether at the time of takeover or at the time of termination of the lease, it is necessary to ascertain that what is stated in the inventory corresponds to the facts of the case.

If the inventory is not provided, the incoming tenant must insist that it be prepared and attached to the lease.

If a serious defect is found after the inventory is signed, it is a good idea to send a registered letter to the landlord and request that it be attached to the inventory. Utility companies should read the meters before the new tenant moves in, although arrangements may need to be made.

### **WHERE TO LOOK FOR AN APARTMENT :**

There are two websites that are extremely useful when looking for an apartment in Milan : Idealista (<https://www.idealista.it/en/vendita-case/milano-milano/>) and Immobiliare (<https://www.immobiliare.it/affitto-case/milano/>).

Knowing the perfect place/area for you to search for your apartment is obviously very hard and it is a tricky task for us to give you an answer. However, we can provide you with some advice on where to look, what are the nicest neighborhoods around Bocconi. Our favorite neighborhood to live in is Navigli because of its liveliness and its bucolic aspect. Nevertheless, it is a good 15 minutes walk from the University. If you wish to go to the campus, you should look around Porta Lodovica or Porta Romana (a bit further away from Porta Lodovica but closer than Navigli), which has great restaurants around. Those areas can be rather expensive (though you can always get lucky and find an amazing apartment at a very convenient price !). If you are on a tighter budget, we can advise you to look in Morivione, especially around via Pomponazzi, via Bonghi and via Carcano, because they are at not more than 20 minutes away by foot from Bocconi and the tram 15 will take you to the Duomo in about 30 minutes.



## 5. HOW TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

Before leaving, check with your home bank if they have a branch in Italy or any special agreement with an Italian bank (which could be more convenient for you than opening a brand new bank account).

In order to be able to open a bank account (and a telephone account, a mobile phone account and even electric or gas accounts), you will need to have an Italian tax code (Codice fiscale) and an identity document (ID card/passeport).

The Bancomat 7oi t7s a debit card generally accepted throughout Italy to pay for goods and services. It is recommended to request this when opening a bank account. All banks have *Bancomat* (ATM) machines for automatic cash withdrawal. Note that if you withdraw cash from an ATM machine which does not belong to your bank you will probably be charged a small fee.

Most banks open from 8 :30am – 13 :30, close for lunch and re-open at 2 :30pm until 3 :30pm. However each bank is different 7oi t is worth checking with your local branch.

Here are the details of the main banks close to the University :

- [Barclays Bank](#)
- [Banca Popolare di Sondrio](#)
- [Banca Intesa San Paolo](#)
- [Banca Unicredit](#)

In collaboration with Banca Popolare di Sondrio, the Bocconi ID Card can be enabled for financial services such as credit card operations and the University may use it to disburse scholarships. However, once the card has been activated for banking operations, contracts and payment services will occur exclusively between the user and Banca Popolare di Sondrio, without mediation by the University.

Post offices also offer banking services and savings and current accounts. Any resident over the age of 18 may open a post office account. The post offices are open for longer hours and bills are debited free unlike in normal banks. You can pay your utility bills at the post office if you have not arranged a direct debit payment.

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS !

*(who require a permit of stay)*

You can only start a bank account once you've received the residence permit card. Since getting the final residence permit card can take anywhere from a month to three months, **be prepared with enough cash to last you a couple months.**

## 6. HOW TO GET A CELLPHONE PLAN

Several phone companies operate in Italy. The four major providers in Italy are : Vodafone, TIM, Wind Tre and Fastweb. You can go to any mobile phone store and ask to see their cell phone/mobile plans.

If you are staying for one year or longer we suggest you to ask for a year-long plan ("abbonamento"). If you are staying for less than one year we suggest that you buy a sim card which you pay-as-you-go/top up using rechargeable cards ("*carta ricaricabile*"). You can purchase rechargeable cards from any Tobacconist's. If you sign up for a plan, make sure you find out how much it costs if you cancel and how many months notice you must give (if any).





## SEVERAL QUESTION YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK :

- How much does it cost to call an Italian number ?
- How much does it cost to call your home country ? (to call abroad we suggest that you buy an international phone card at any Tabaccheria or newsstand or call using a VOIP software, such as Skype) ?
- How much does it cost to call/receive calls when outside of Italy ? (usually when you use your Italian mobile phone abroad you are charged for incoming calls except when in the EU calling an Italian number in Italy) ?
- How much does it cost to send a text message (SMS) and multimedia text messages (MMS) ?
- How much do other services such as Internet access, TV, etc. cost ?

## 7. GETTING A GYM MEMBERSHIP VIRGIN ACTIVE (BOCCONI GYM)

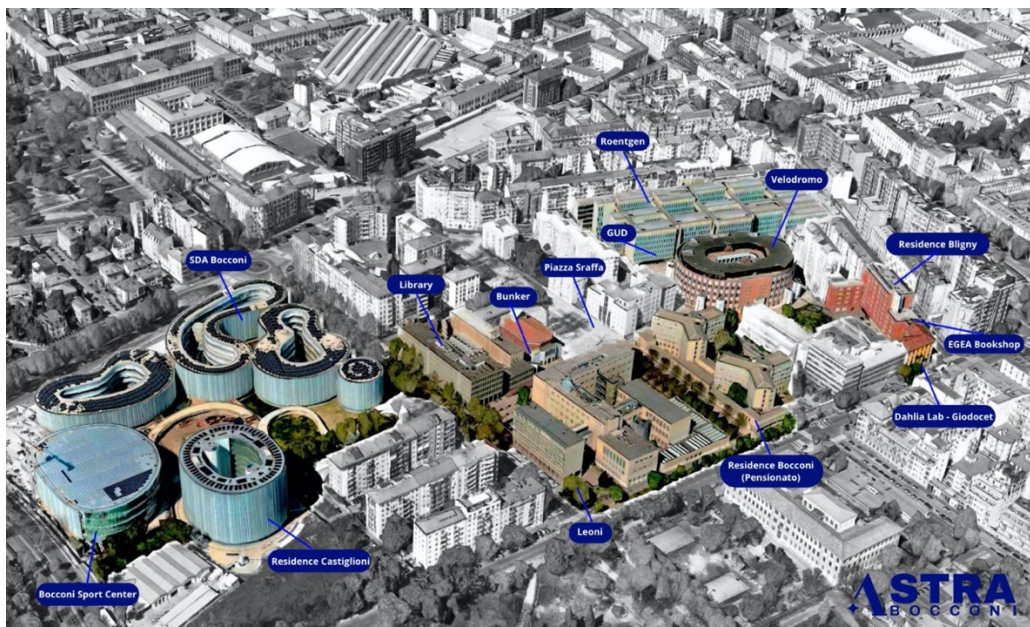


Image made by Nicola Arcari

- Virgin Active is the Bocconi gym and is located on campus
- In order to get a membership
  - Go to the virgin active reception (on the first floor of the building)
  - Ask to get a membership and they will either have you do it on the spot or give you an appointment later
  - The membership is an annual commitment. While you pay monthly, you cannot cancel your membership before the year is up (unless you have a medical reason)
  - You can, however, pause your membership and pay EUR 25 monthly in case you're not in Milan for up to 6 months and won't be able to use your membership
  - Before the membership can start you must also get a medical checkup done, this can be done either at the gym itself or from any external healthcare provider



- Here are the costs:
  - Setting up the membership: EUR 99
  - Price of medical checkup: EUR 49
  - Monthly cost of membership (without classes): EUR 62
  - Monthly cost of membership (with classes): EUR 99

### OTHER NEARBY (CHEAPER) GYMS

- Palestra Active24
- GetFIT via Piacenza
- FitGirl Milano
- 20Hours Club Brioschi

## 8. BOCCONI STUDENTS DISCOUNTS\*

### TRENITALIA

CartaFRECCIA is the loyalty program dedicated to Trenitalia customers, which allows you to accumulate points by traveling on Freccie, Eurocity and Euronight.

Register online in just a few minutes and immediately receive your already active personal code to start collecting points and access dedicated promotions.

<https://www.lefreccie.it/Channels.Website.WEB/?programSelected=2#/user-new-registration?programSelected=2>.

As a Bocconi student you are entitled to receive a **20% discount** on Trenitalia, you just need to click on the link below, and enter your arrow card information, after registering at the previous link. <https://www.lefreccie.it/Channels.Website.WEB/#/b2b-loyalty-invite/accept?invitationId=265029>.

### CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Many theaters, museums and concerts have student discounts that you can get by showing your student ID card at the purchase of the ticket. You can find all discounts on Bocconi's website to this link:

[https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico\\_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+culturali+05\\_07\\_2016](https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+culturali+05_07_2016).

### SERVICES

Bocconi has a lot of agreements with several firms, health assurance companies and driving schools that you can take advantage of. For example, aside from the Carta Freccia, you can get discounts on flights with KLM or Delta, taxi companies, parkings and so on. You can find further information at this link:

[https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico\\_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+commerciali](https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+commerciali).

### HEALTH CARE

The University also has plenty of agreement with pharmacies, doctors and hospitals where you can get pretty convenient discounts:

[https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico\\_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+salute](https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+salute)



## SPORT

If you are a very sports oriented person, you will surely be interested in all the discounts you can get by just showing your Bocconi ID card. Here are all the spots in Milan you might wanna check out:

[https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico\\_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+sportive](https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/bocconi/sitopubblico_it/albero+di+navigazione/home/corsi+di+studio/studenti+iscritti/campus+life/convenzioni/convenzioni+sportive)

*\*Because most of the information provided at the links mentioned above are in italian, if you need help understanding and making use of the discounts you can reach out to the writers of the guide (Lia and Aahana).*

## 9. USEFUL INFORMATIONS:

You can find the list of all Consulates located in Milan and where they are situated here:

<https://embassies.net/italy/milan>.

To the following link you can find the pharmacies opened overnight in Milan:

[https://www.yelp.com/search?find\\_desc=24+hour+pharmacy&find\\_loc=Milan](https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=24+hour+pharmacy&find_loc=Milan).

You can find below a list of public hospitals in Milan and their phone number (to which you need to add the italian prefix +39):

NAME (and specialization)	Address	Phone
<b>Niguarda Ca' Granda</b> (cardiology, neurology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, oncology, rheumatology, urology, poison antidote centre, first aid for burn injuries)	Piazza Ospedale Maggiore, 3 - 20162 Milano	0264441
<b>San Carlo Borromeo</b> (allergology, endoscopy, hematology, surgery, traumatology, urology, orthopaedics, radiology, emergency room)	Via Pio II, 3 - 20153 Milano	0240221
<b>San Paolo</b> (andrology, dermatology, endoscopy, physiotherapy, otolaryngology, oncology, orthopaedics, psychiatry)	Via Di Rudini, 8 - 20142 Milano	0281841
<b>Mangiagalli</b> (obstetrics, gynaecology, radiology, sexual violence first aid)	Via della Commenda, 12 20122 - Milano	0255181923
<b>Vittore Buzzi</b> (orthopaedics, traumatology, dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, odontostomatology)	Via Castelvetro, 22 - 20154 Milano	0257995359
<b>Fatebenefratelli</b> - Ophthalmic Emergency Care (cardiology, plastic surgery, dialysis, nephrology, neurosurgery, oncology, urology, otolaryngology)	C.so di Porta Nuova, 23 - 20121 Milano	0263631
<b>Luigi Sacco</b> (angiology, pneumology, bronchoscopy, allergology, study of diabetes, psychiatry, gastroenterology, radiology)	Via G.B. Grassi, 74 - 20157 Milano	0239041
<b>Ospedale Maggiore di Milano</b> (medulla transplant, dermatology, ophthalmology)	Via F. Sforza, 28 - 20122 MILANO	0255031
<b>National Cancer Centre</b> (radiology, intensive therapy, endoscopy, surgery)	Via G. Venezian, 1 - 20133 Milano	0223901
<b>Carlo Besta</b> (neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology)	Via Celoria, 11 - 20133 Milano	0223941
<b>Gaetano Pini</b> - Orthopaedics Emergency Care (orthopaedics, traumatology, shoulder surgery)	P.za Cardinal Ferrari, 1 - 20122 Milano	02582961

