



Rappresentazione di una cascina lombarda tratta da un dipinto, olio su tela. Collezione privata.

Comprendere, conoscere una città vuol dire andare alla ricerca della sua identità più autentica e profonda. Un'identità fatta di storia, arte e architettura ma anche di riti, antiche credenze e festività pagane o religiose scardate dal tempo atmosferico, o religiose indelebili di un recente passato in cui la terra e l'uomo condividevano lo stesso respiro. Lo stesso tempo, oggi spesso dimenticato se non addirittura sospeso tra le pieghe della memoria. Cascine, fabbricati rurali, corti, vecchi mulini, case colorate ma anche semplici fililli e porticati segnati dal tempo, che meglio di altri sanno raccontare e rappresentare un grande patrimonio storico, architettonico, culturale e sociale segno indelebile della laboriosa contadina sovente relegata a vivere nei ricordi di una città mai uguale a se stessa, come Milano.

testimoniato la trasformazione della popolazione contadina in classe operaia. Luoghi che non sono stati spazzati dello scorrere inesorabile del tempo ma testimoni autentici dell'impegno e della determinazione dei tanti uomini e donne che con il loro duro lavoro quotidiano hanno contribuito a delineare l'evoluzione, la storia, la tradizione culturale e l'identità di Milano.

Un percorso nell'evoluzione sociale e culturale, alla scoperta della città e delle tradizioni di ieri ma anche di oggi, per confrontarsi in maniera nuova e curiosa con la storia e le memorie di Milano, aiutando ognuno di noi ad apprezzare del tutto l'identità, l'arte e l'architettura attraverso la conoscenza dei luoghi, delle genti e dei costumi di Milano, comprendendo al meglio chi siamo e da dove veniamo.

Massimiliano Orsatti
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Marketing Territoriale, Identità

WWW.TURISMO.COMUNE.MILANO.IT
100MILANO. LA CITTÀ SI RACCONTA

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Dove
Via Chiesa Rossa, 265

Come
M1 fermata Caletta + 79
M2 fermata Abbiategrasso + 79



Dove
Via Dudovich, 10

Come
Autobus 65 (piazz. Agripoli);
Tram 3, 15
M2 fermata Abbiategrasso
Usata Via Dani - Parco Ticinello



Dove
Via Fratelli Rizzardi, 15

Come
M1 fermata De Angeli + 80



Dove
Via Cavriana, 51

Come
M1 fermata Duomo + 54 + 500 mt. a piedi



Dove
Via San Domenico Savo, 51

Come
M2 fermata Abbiategrasso + 79
Tram 15, 29, 9



Dove
Via Fratelli Zola, 194

Come
E possibile prenotare visite guidate alle aree agricole (tra cui le stanche marce) e attività del Parco delle Cave.
Come
M1 fermata Loto + Interurb. 420
Nere + 67, fermata Bisceglie + 78, 63



Dove
Via Anselmo da Besiglio, 55

Come
M1 fermata Bande Nere + 67



Dove
Via Monluè, 70

Come
M1 fermata Duomo + 27



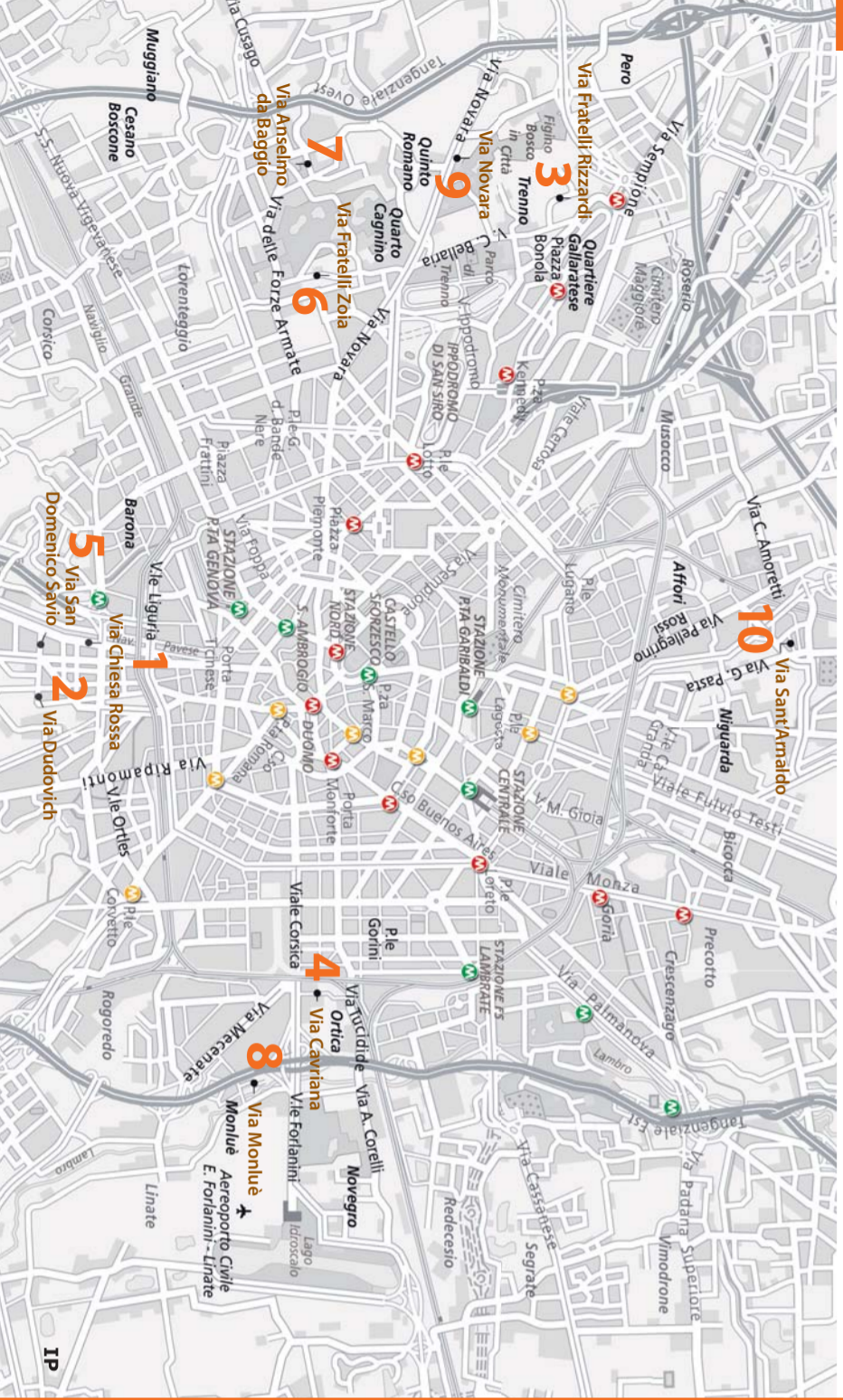
Dove
Via Novara, 340

Come
M1 fermata de Angeli + 72
M1 fermata Milano Dorino + 72
M1 fermata Loto + Interurb. 420



Dove
Via Sant'Arnaldo, 17

Come
M3 fermata Macchiavini + 70 per Bruzzano
M2 fermata Moscona + 70 per Bruzzano



The ancient village of Monluè is a medieval site, probably founded in Longobard times. The name of the place could derive from a contraction of latin *mons luparius*, i.e.



Cascina Monluè

mount of the wolves, which suggests it was once a very wild place in the woods, quite distant from the city walls. Friars of the *Umiliati* (humbled) order later took over and developed a busy farming community



Cascina Monluè

by the Abbey. The Church of St. Lorenzo in Monluè, already existing in 1244 and later rebuilt in Romano-Gothic style,

stood out for its beauty. When the order was suppressed, Monluè became a Jesuit property and subsequently passed through various hands. In the seventies, as Milan's east ring road was built, the village was physically separated from the city. Eventually isolation was a blessing, as it spared the site the massive urban development blighting other areas around Milan. The Abbey is now property of the Milan City Council and musical and cultural events regularly take place in the great courtyard.

CASCINA SAN ROMANO

The original nucleus of the actual building dates back to the fifteenth century, but



Cascina San Romano

the site could be much older – possibly settled in Roman times. The farmstead once had an enclosed court and was graced by a country house and a tower, both demolished in the sixties: on the southern side stood a tiny church dedicated to St. Romano, of which nothing remains.



Cascina San Romano

The *cascina* is now an L-shaped building edging the former court to the west and south, while on the eastern side one can see the great stable with its vaulted roof. Animals were fed directly through openings on the roof, which was level with the barn. *Cascina S. Romano* is now property of the Milan City Council and on lease to the Milan branch of *Italia Nostra*, a national environmental organization. The area has been transformed into a park within the boundaries of the present city and now boasts a small lake of its own.

CASSINA ANNA

The complex known as Cassina Anna was built in the early twentieth century as a typical rural settlement of a time that saw the development of extensive farming in Lombardy. It was built in a picturesque neo-medieval style and included five



Cassina Anna



Cassina Anna

main buildings and a great court housing labourers, farm animals and farm machinery. The *cascina* is now situated near historic core of the town of Bruzzano and was bought by the Milan City Council in 1982. After restoration it is

an imposing and splendid example of Lombard farmstead. In homage to the past, original Visconti coats of arms were walled in the structure. Cassina Anna now houses a City Council Library, community centres and is provided with a great hall where events and meetings are held.



Cascina Monastero

It had three enclosed courts, only one of which was destined to farming activities. Just outside there was a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Legend has it that a secret underground tunnel connected the monastery with a distant building. All sorts of stories have been told about it, ranging from knights on horseback galloping through the tunnel to recent use as a hiding place for partisans during the last war. Children were told to stay away from it at all costs. The monastery was closed in the eighteenth century, under Austrian rule, and subsequently plundered and damaged. It finally became *Cascina Monastero*, was settled by labourers and given over to farming until the fifties. It is now property of the Milan City Council, which has saved it from demolition and restored what remains of its ancient beauty.



Cascina Monastero

community with ties to the Templar order. But the *cascina's* greatest claim to fame is its having been the loved abode of Petrarca during his stay in Milan from 1353 to 1361. The great Italian poet was a guest of the Visconti, Milan's rulers at the time, and greatly appreciated the contemplative solitude and natural beauty the site afforded him during his visits from the city. In the following decades the farmstead was enlarged and provided with an enclosed court, finally becoming a hamlet in its own right. In recent years the whole area was at risk of being transformed into a residential complex, but local associations opposed the project and fought for the preservation of the *cascina* and its surroundings. It is now a state-protected monument, where



Cascina Linterno

events and exhibits are held, and the small church dedicated to the Virgin Mary has been opened to the public. Opposite the altar the small window from which Petrarch watched religious functions can still be seen.

CASCINA MONASTERO

The early nucleus of the *cascina* is to be found in the remains of the fifteenth century monastery that Balzarino de' Posterla - Matteo Visconti's son in law - built and donated to the Olivetan monks. He was apparently inspired by a similar monastery near Siena.



Cascina Chiesa Rossa

the life and death of the Virgin, believed to have been influenced by the school of Giotto. The abundance of water in the area around the monastery allowed for a number of smaller *cascine* to be established in its proximity and for diffuse farming. At the end of the eighteenth century the monastery was suppressed, the *cascine* were take over by private farmers and the church fell into ruin and was used as a barn. In 1960 the Milan City Council bought all the buildings. One of the *cascine* is now a multimedia City Council library, an orchard and a small park have been created and the church and the outlying buildings have been restored to their original beauty.

CASCINA LINTERNO

The *cascina* is mentioned for the first time in documents dating back to the twelfth century, as the property of Longobard nobles. Apparently it used to be a fortified grange with a watchtower, housing a monastic



Cascina Linterno

- It was abandoned in the eighteenth century. The area survived thanks to the establishment of the *Forlanini* Park, one of Milan's main green areas, which in the sixties and seventies kept aggressive urban development at bay. Today the *cascina* is a property of the Milan City Council and the heritage farmstead is open to visitors.



Cascina Cavriano

CASCINA CHIESA ROSSA

The old rural settlement probably included a church by a farmstead



Cascina Chiesa Rossa

with a great court, porticoes and a vast stable. The "red" church, thus named for the colour of its bricks, was built in different stages, from the ninth to the thirteenth century, on pre-existing buildings. Archaeologists have found the remnants of roman walls and mosaics on the site. The medieval church – S.Maria alla Fonte (St. Mary by the fount) was by graced beautiful frescoes on



Cascina Campi

Cascina Campi is now a modern and well-run farmstead, co-existing in a harmonious relationship with the city and fulfilling a very useful educational function in what is by now an almost homogeneous metropolitan context.

CASCINA CAVRIANO

The *cascina* appears as a complex of joined courts, crossed by the road connecting Monluè to Lambrate - it could originally have been a part of the St.Maria Valle Monastery. The most significant building is the villa, containing some very interesting architectural elements. Over the three-arched portico one can still see the symbol of a dove carrying an olive branch, the emblem of the *Ospedale Maggiore*, that owned the *cascina* until the seventies. A small church dedicated to St. Ambrose, Milan's patron saint, was also part of the complex



Cascina Cavriano

fodder. The park organizes guided tours, with special attractions for children. An old eighteenth century bread oven has been restored to its function in the original setting.

CASCINA CAMPI

Cascina Campi was built between 1825 and 1828 thanks to the efforts of a very capable priest, Don Bravo: he intended the farmstead as an asylum where the disabled and mentally ill could feel useful and active. These particular labourers farmed the soil and reared livestock for the whole community. The *cascina* has become a symbolic place for Milanese agriculture. The Campi family, who has had it on lease since 1928, is still fighting hard to keep it alive and profitable, defending the rural complex



Cascina Campi

from urban sprawl and decay. It is now busy as an organic farm, where animals are reared and biological products are on sale. Schoolchildren visit regularly and are taught about nature and organic farming. A riding school and a big stable catering to privately owned horses are also important attractions.

CASCINA CAMPAZZO

The area south of Milan was first farmed in the late thirteenth century thanks to the Cistercian monks of the Chiaravalle Abbey. Marshes were drained and a system of irrigation canals which later included the *Navigli* was created. Abundant fodder led to the development of dairy farming and to the building of typical Lombard



Cascina Campazzo

farmsteads (*cascine*), characterized by enclosed courts. Within the *cascina* all commercial, social and religious functions were present. In wath were then self-sufficient units. The *Cascina Campazzo* is now a part of the *Parco Ticinello*, preserving the original farming traditions of the area, and is well known for its grazing milk cows and for growing corn, wheat and



Cascina Campazzo

CASCINA BASMETTO



Cascina Basmetto

The *cascina* has been known to exist since the fifteenth century, when it belonged to the St. Barnaba Monastery at the Gratosoglio, an area then south of Milan. It later belonged to Cardinal Cusani and was finally expropriated by the Milan City Council in 1972. Today it is a vast farmstead with an enclosed rectangular court and entrance on the western side. It comprised a country house, symmetrically built with a nice portico supported by columns, lodgings for farm labourers, a very large stable, barns and tool sheds.



Cascina Basmetto

The adjoining land is mainly farmed for rice and corn. In 2004 a fire severely damaged the eastern side of the complex. Every year a cultural festival is held at the *cascina* in September.

Cascina Basmetto

Travel notes

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LE CASCINE

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