

MILANO



MOZART'S STAY

On 23rd January 1770, Leopold and Wolfgang Mozart arrived in Milan. It was the first of five visits that Wolfgang would make throughout the course of his life. Following a recommendation by the

Salzburg Augustine monks, they found quarter in the monastery of San Marco. There, as we know, W.A. Mozart composed arias and motets for young singers (for instance *Misero tu non sei* K. 73A). He also gave several concerts for the local nobility and finally received the long awaited commission to write a new opera.

On 15th March 1770, father and son left Milan. They returned in the following autumn to present *Mitridate, Re di Ponto*, Mozart's first opera for Milan. During this visit, they took private accommodations (where *Largo Augusto* is today).

On 26th December, *Mitridate* was performed for the first time. The first three performances saw Wolfgang Amadeus conducting and playing the keyboard. The opera was greeted with enthusiastic public acceptance, and the "Regio Ducal Teatro" was sold out for months to come. *Ascanio in Alba*, Mozart's second Milan opera (K. 111), met with a similar degree of success.

Two private excursions followed, and led Leopold and Wolfgang to Turin and Venezia. In December 1771, they returned to Salzburg due to the sudden death of Salzburg's duke archbishop Schrattenbach. As their employer, he had been socially and financially supportive of the two Mozarts. The new archbishop, Count Colloredo (from April 1772) had different ideas on music and, in particular, its position at court. The Mozarts only received his permission to return to Milan one more time (November 1772) in order to present *Lucio Silla*, Wolfgang's third Milan opera (K. 135). This opera seria was performed 25 times. On the 4th March 1773, they left and saw Milan for the last time.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Casa del Parini

Piazzetta di Brera

A commemorative plaque dedicated to the famous abbot who wrote the libretto of Mozart's *Ascanio in Alba* is still visible.

Church of S. Fedele

Piazza S. Fedele

Mozart conducted a *Passion Cantata* here in 1771.

Church of S. Maria del Carmine

Piazza del Carmine

Mozart attended this church, which was built the 1400s and remodelled many times, and he conducted a mass here during his second stay in Milan.

Church of S. Maria della Passione

Via Bellini 2

A beautiful dome enriches this 15th century church, second only to the Duomo in size, where Mozart may have played.

Church of San Marco

Piazza S. Marco

At the time of Mozart's first stay on Italy it was a monastery of the Augustinian Fathers. A plaque recalls the hospitality given to the 14-year-old composer.

Cathedral (Duomo)

Piazza del Duomo

The marriage of Archduke Ferdinand, ruler of Milan, to Maria Beatrice D'Este was celebrated here in 1771. Mozart, barely 15 years old, wrote *Ascanio in Alba* for this occasion.

Church of St. Antonio Abate

Via S. Antonio 5

The motet *Exsultate, Jubilate* was played for the first time here on January 17, 1773. The church, still under restoration at present, is a prototype of Milanese Baroque. The organ is for the most part the original one that Mozart played.

Palazzo Clerici

Via Clerici 5

Mozart visited the palace on the inauguration of the music hall in October 1771, after the wedding of Ferdinand of Habsburg.

Royal Palace

Piazza Duomo

Site of the "Regio Ducale Theatre" which was destroyed by fire in 1776. Mozart's *Mitridate Re di Ponto* was created here in December 1770, *Ascanio in Alba* in October 1771 and *Lucio Silla* in December 1772. During his second stay in Milan, Mozart was also hosted by the Ducale in a house next to the theatre.

Verri's House

Via Montenapoleone

Literary brothers Pietro and Carlo Verri, leading figures in the Milanese cultural scene, received Mozart in their parlour (no longer extant).

ABOUT MILANO

Milan's origins go back to the 4th century BC. Conquered by the Romans in 222 BC it was re-named "Mediolanum". Milan hosted the imperial court from A.D. 286 - 402 favouring its historical and artistic development. Mediolanum was an important Christian centre witness the Edict of Milan, A.D. 313, promulgated by Emperor Constantine. The City was subjected to domination by the Longobards, Franks, and Visconti seignory. The Sforza family ruled from 1450 guaranteeing a period of peace and prosperity. They emerged as important art patrons inviting leading artists and architects to Milan. Leonardo da Vinci spent long periods at the court of Duke Lodovico il Moro during which he realized many masterpieces, culminating in the fresco "**Cenacolo**" for the Church of S. Maria delle Grazie.

In the sixteenth century Milan was occupied by the French and subsequently subjected to decades of Spanish domination. The City underwent a period of decline lasting until 1713 when it was ceded to Austria. Under Maria Teresa of Austria economic reform and progress with an intense cultural revival favoured a lively intellectual climate open to new ideas inspired by Europe's age of Enlightenment. When Napoleon's troops invaded Milan in 1796 the Austrians were driven out and Milan became the capital of the cisalpine republic. After this turbulent period marked by ambitious urban building projects, Milan once again under Hapsburg rule, was conspicuous in the struggle for the independence of Italy. It joined the new kingdom of Italy in 1861 under Vittorio Emanuele the second.

From the end of the nineteenth century until the period after the Second World War, Milan played a leading role in the industrial development of Italy. Recently it has emerged as a protagonist of post-industrial re-conversion. Milan is internationally well known as the productive capital and leader in the tertiary services sector. The dynamism of the environment is evident in the fields of finance, research, publishing, new technologies and last but not least as a reference point for fashion and design (**Milano città della moda**). Milan's world famous Trade Fair (**Fiera di Milano**) has recently been extended, incorporating a vast new exposition area. The city is the seat of renowned Universities and cultural institutions such as the Scala Theatre (**Teatro alla Scala, Piccolo Teatro**). Tourists can appreciate the city's artistic legacy, and artistic and architectural heritage. Milan's museums offer the public immense cultural patrimonies which together with the extensive network of exhibition areas have contributed to Milan becoming the second tourist destination in Italy with more than ten million visitors a year.

PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Detailed information you find on the local websites of our partners or
<http://www.mozartways.com/milano>

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