



## Milan Worlds Skating Competition Trip Notes March 14-28, 2018

### **Headlines**

- World Competition! One of my first events was in Boston for the World's and I was hooked at seeing the best of the best. Last year I went to Helsinki for World Competition. I just might go to Japan for next year's Worlds making it my 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Touring in Milan has a lot of appeal.
- Traveling with my sister Beverly is special and not only because she is super informative about the skating world.
- Apartment in historic center of Milan was found by Tom.
- Skating comes first, but a favorite artist was the feature at one of their art museums and that show was such the highlight we spent much of a day there: Giovanni Boldini or see some pictures at <http://www.gam-milano.com/it/home/> A copy of one of his gals (seen here) is the highlight of my dressing room.
- Tour guide and friend Alessandro spent three full days with us. Kept us entertained and busy.



### **Why do I enjoy ice-skating?**

- Healthy, fit and sexy bodies on the ice. Not so with many of the huge spectators.
- Enjoyable and usually relaxing music. Beverly usually knows all the music.
- Costumes are great fun. Some are tacky, some are classy, some amusing but all entertaining. Country customs sure show up with some looking tacky to our eyes.
- Experiencing the roadies who bring flowers and banners and follow their favorite skater with zeal.
- Wonder at the enthusiasm by Asians who are more supportive spectators than most.

### **Why I don't . . . .**

- Used to be crash and burn. Now it's crash and metal. However can someone get on the medal stand after falling a few times? I can't enjoy the falling and potential injuries.
- Too much of crossing from one end of the rink to the other and try to do a jump and crash. We need a new "ice jumping" competition as a separate category.
- What should have been the best of the best was a full-fledged splat-fest. Some of us think the point-judging-incentive is missing the point of the beauty of skating.

**Quads?** Could that be why we're missing Jason Brown and other beauties? I'm downright tired of these athletic kids when what I want to watch is lovely choreography. Or to quote a friend: Nothing exciting to me to watch them going back and forth across the rink then doing a big jump. If that continues, maybe they should have a new special sport called "ice jumping," kind of like the ski aerials or big air jumps in snowboarding...?

**Guide** to skating terms: <http://time.com/5139060/olympic-figure-skating-pyeongchang-guide/>

**Five myths** about figure skating: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/five-myths/five-myths-about-figure-skating/2018/02/08/8db38f96-0c5c-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/five-myths/five-myths-about-figure-skating/2018/02/08/8db38f96-0c5c-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7_story.html)



### ***The only email sent during trip --***

This was a “stormy” departure for many reasons. Beverly and I had long planned to travel to Milan Italy to again experience the world’s competition for ice-skating. Some “storms” were worthy of calling serious and others were simply three northeaster storms in two weeks to include one on the day before intended departure. On Tuesday and Wednesday the airlines offered to waive change fees. We were to leave on Wednesday morning.

Are you sitting down? On Tuesday afternoon (Correction: Monday afternoon) my sister Beverly lost her eldest son. . . . (Note later – he took his own life.)

I can’t begin to think how horrific it was for Beverly to lose her son. Some of you know Chad as my hiking buddy from Yosemite last July and another year from upper Yellowstone and the Beartooth’s. Chad was both personable and nice looking and loved by many. Nearly 40 years old. And wow but he wrote the most amazingly wonderful thank you notes no matter how small the gift. I probably have saved them all. How could he be gone?

So . . . . our trip plans that evening and night went from Beverly being unable to go, later me thinking I too should not go, all kinds of opinions, a late night arrangement for a three day flight delay, to a first class upgrade for Beverly just in case but not telling her for not wanting to make an opinion whether she should go onto Milan or not, her husband Carl encouraging her to go, to finally the following day both of us flying off to Milan. Was that really all in a period of about 15 hours? (Correction: Beverly had all of Tuesday!) Carl was the superman for covering the home-front, and Beverly the superwoman for wanting to keep things as normal as possible. The thought was that Beverly couldn’t do very much at home and need a diversion. I just don’t know about these things and I said too many friends that I just plain friggin didn’t know what to say or what to do. They didn’t either.

So off we went with Beverly flying in from St. Louis and meeting me in Newark for her connection. Some of you know that we are an airline family. Maybe that is part of the reason that we can adapt to situations. Well, Beverly had a lot of experience in the airlines early days of first class when we had pretty much unlimited first class privileges on TWA. This was a needed treat so it would be.

We had quite a few hours in the Newark airport lounge for her connection because we weren’t sure about the storm and the connection time working. All went well and we landed as scheduled in Milan with a limo driver delivering us to the center of Milan and our apartment.

The apartment from their website [WWW.BnButler.it](http://WWW.BnButler.it). Follows is the website description and I do believe that it is more than expected.

*Luxury and full design center in Milan - 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and veranda. Wonderful apartment on the 1st floor of Via Broletto 39 newly renovated and furnished with attention to detail and unique materials used. The property, with a beautiful veranda overlooking the quiet green garden, consists of two bedrooms each with private bathroom and walk-in closet interiors, as well as a living space with a large, comfortable sofa bed, a kitchen "hidden" in a masterly manner, and a dining table.*

*The entrance to the apartment is a spacious and bright living area where we find a comfortable dining table for six people, a television, a brand new full designer kitchen, and a relaxation area with a large, comfortable sofa bed in the corner to relax.*

*The kitchen offers all the amenities such as dishwasher, washing machine, dryer, Nespresso coffee maker, electric oven, kettle, toaster as well as everything you need to cook and eat comfortably. The Gas stove, hidden from view, is inserted below the work surface as well as the sink, stove and refrigerator are covered by mirrored doors that make the kitchen when not in use, an elegant wall per day.*

*The living area is very bright and a splendid veranda overlooks a quiet and private garden. The veranda is a wonderful place to relax, bright but at the same time reserved, where we find a table to eat breakfast peacefully in the green and light, an armchair to relax with a book and a desk to write or work on the computer.*

*Down the porch is the entrance to the smaller room, furnished on the orange tones and two single beds, a comfortable chair, two bedside tables and a luxurious en suite bathroom with a toilet, sink and walk-in glass shower and a cabin adjoining closet.*

*The largest room, which is accessed by a separate entrance on the other side is with a door from the living room, has a double bed, is decorated on the Yellow tones and has a spacious walk-in closet and a bathroom with toilet, bidet, sink and a wide mosaic shower also be used as a bath. In the room there are also a desk and several designer furnishings.*

*The room "Yellow" also has a comfortable balcony reserved and quiet because it overlooks a courtyard.*

*The luxurious materials, lights and designer furnishings, some designed and manufactured specifically to ownership, enhance and lend elegance to the house making it even more unique a property intended to strike anyone for subtlety, brightness, comfort and luxury.*

*At home you will always find everything you need with high quality Italian course in addition to towels, robes and disposable slippers. On your arrival you will always find at home two bottles of good Italian wine, sparkling water along with essential products such as coffee) so you can cook whatever you want. The house is also comfortable and close to butchers, bakers, fishmongers and supermarkets. For any need, or particular purchase, we will always be available to you.*

*You will have the opportunity to live in one of the most central and exclusive areas of Milan, a few steps from the Duomo and the Sforzesco Castle, the beautiful symbols of our city. The Brera district is full of bars, restaurants, delis, bakeries, exclusive houses and is enlivened by many events that you can reach on foot. Teeming with life during the day, joyful and safe at night. Guests can go to lots of exclusive shops of Via Garibaldi and Brera district and the old town or to visit museums and monuments, on foot if you wish. Also difficult to choose between the many different restaurants, wine bars, as well as several places where you can listen to live music while sipping a cocktail. In not even 10 minutes of pleasant walk from Piazza Castello with the famous and beautiful Castello Sforzesco and Parco Sempione, as well as Piazza del Duomo, majestic and gothic symbol of our city and the fashion district and La Scala, Milan's temple of 'Opera. In short, we are in a unique and enviable position right in the center of Milan, the heart of the shopping, where you will find*

*everything you could possibly want. End.*

I bet you can guess who found this apartment for us. Tom! He just did it again for our upcoming December Grand Prix finals skating competition in Vancouver Canada.

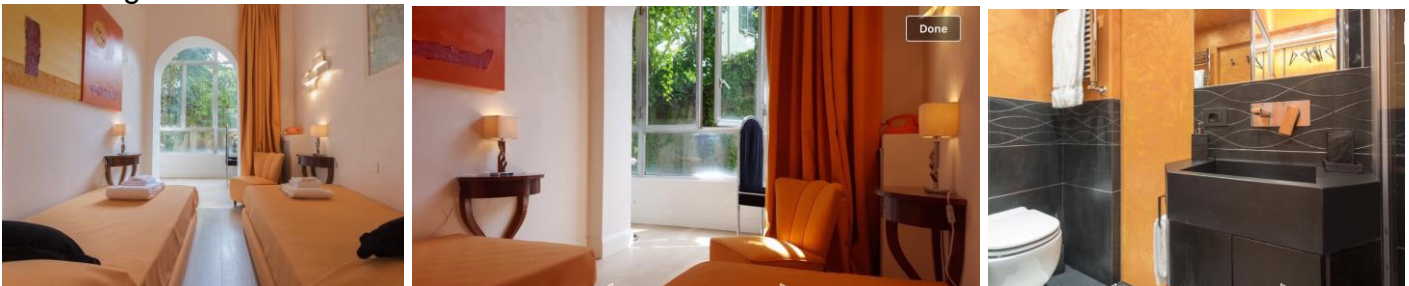
Everyone knows that we enjoy the experiences of nice living accommodations. If you too look forward to some hotel or apartment experiences, here are a few of the apartment pictures.



There are lights and specials and artwork everywhere.

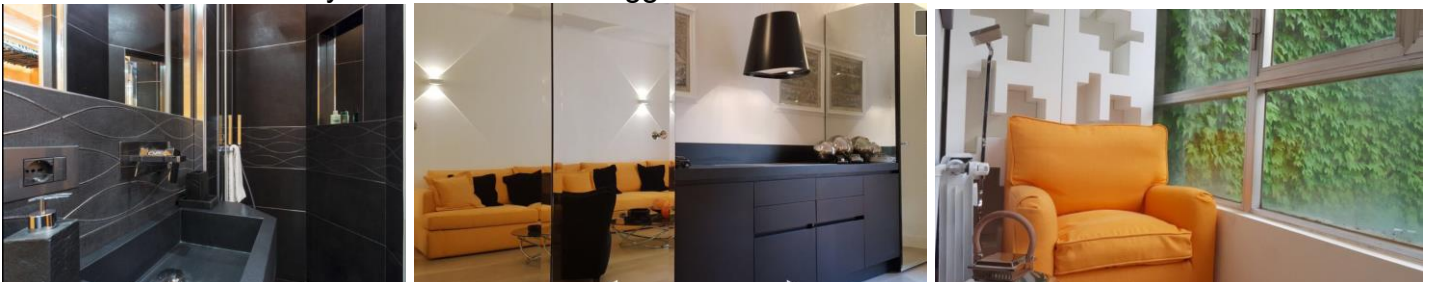
Late the first night I noticed a flashing red light coming from one of the flowers on this Gustav Klimt picture. (I very much enjoy his artwork). I had thoughts of somebody making videos of me so had to look behind and found some kind of security system with a flashing red light just showing through. Ha ha. Maybe they are taping?

The bathroom is all gold to include between the tiles where it looks glisseny. The chandeliers are only one of three lighting systems and are attached the mirror. There is also a window to the courtyard so natural light is available.



The wing for Beverly overlooks a closed veranda and the courtyard. There are vines and plants but our first day was rain and more rain.

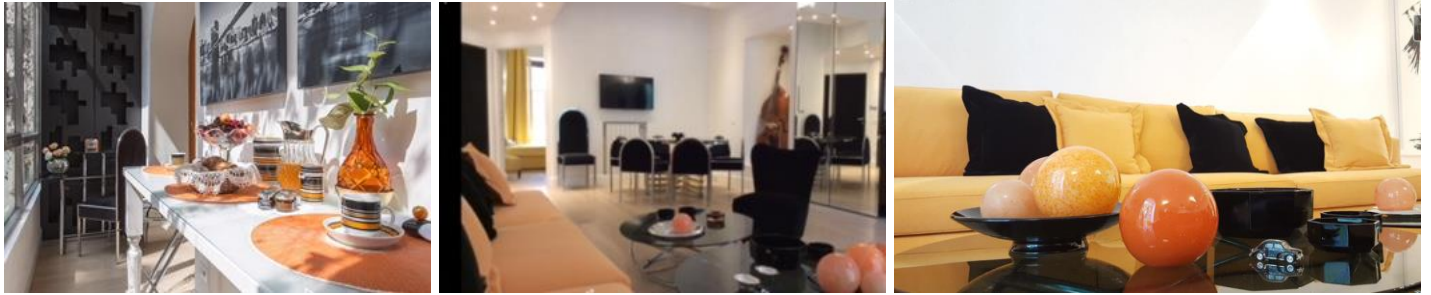
The quality is some of the best I have seen. The space had once been a series of insurance offices. It is almost 1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>. My house isn't much bigger.



Now if the flash water heater would just function properly or we could figure it out, all would be well. But as my wise friend Ellen says, Tom finds good in everything but Diana always say "but . . . ". I especially like to be honest in that while there is utopia there are often times a few thorns. So far that is the only one other than my getting turned around direction-wise when I exit the apartment.

The living room is quite creative. The above picture shows the sofa in the image of the mirrors.

All along one side of the living area is a very hidden kitchen. A wall of mirrors. Under the counter by lifting a long cover is the stove. Behind one mirrored door is a washer and dryer, behind another is the refrigerator and freezer, and behind still another is the sink. Drawers contain the dishes. Also hidden is the dishwasher. If one wanted to cook a lot, it is not particularly convenient. Oops, another “but”.



The veranda with the orange chair and bar would be particularly delightful in the summer. Both rooms not only have their own dressing room and huge walk-in closet but also a desk facility with a lot of electrical plug-ins.

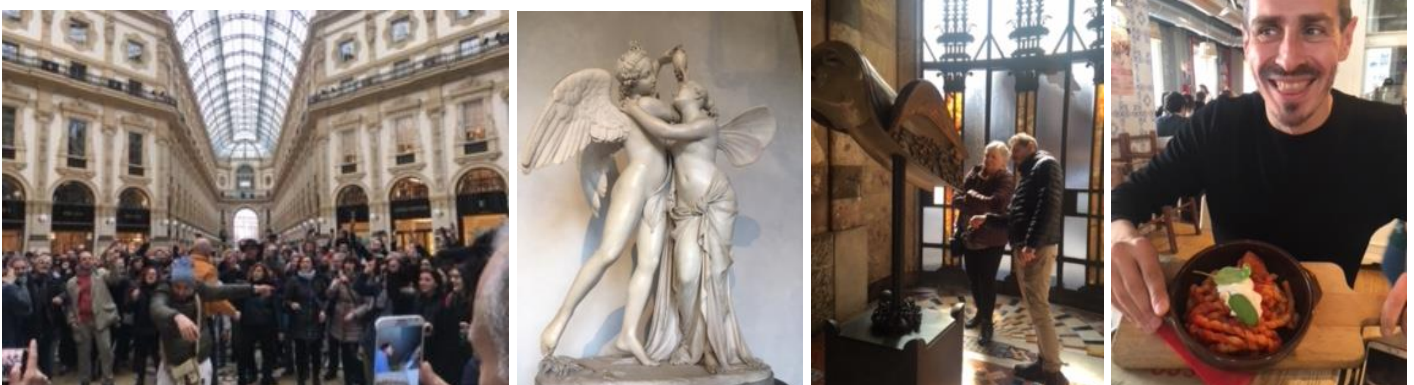


Here you have a good view from the front door of the mirrored wall of a kitchen and then leading out into the veranda overlooking a courtyard. On Sunday night we host a bit of a cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres for 6 to 7 people.

The first partial day we did no more than shop for groceries, walk some of the town through The Duomo area and the amazing covered dome of Immanuel shopping Center, watch one of those flash dance/music events, on through pedestrian shopping streets, to a sweet little restaurant, then home to crash.

We had planned the next and full day with a private tour guide Alessandro that I knew from a 2014 lakes of Italy trip and last year from the Piedmont trip. We had lots of reason to need to rest up.

### **Pictures from the trip**



In the famous Immanuel Galleria across from The Duomo we ran across what I think they call a “Flash Mob” with dancing, singing, instruments playing, etc. We didn’t stay in the middle of it for very long. Hiring Alessandro the next day gave us all sorts of off-the-beaten track sites. Beverly had been

a tourist in Milan before, and I'd spent a few days each on a couple of trips. Alessandro reminded me that this sculpture's artist was the same as a famous one we'd seen on our Lakes of Italy trip. Later into a unique almost Gaudi-esque building we found unusual pieces of art, and Beverly being an art and music major and teacher, was kept well entertained. Alessandro eventually fed us but obviously he doesn't look for food as often as we do.



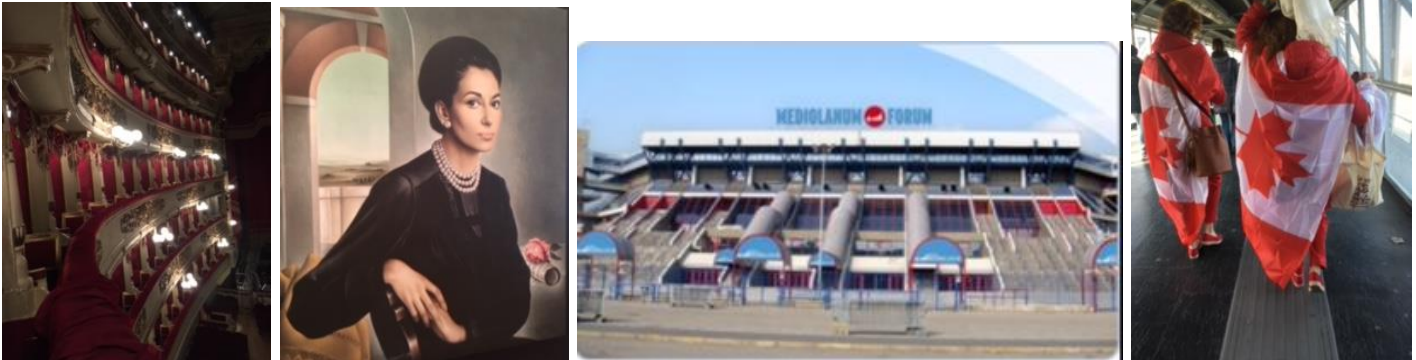
Sometimes churches are just churches and Catholic Europe has plenty. One had an art show of many types of crosses. Out of feathers, or vines, or lights, etc., there were about a dozen in glass of about 6' tall. I always enjoy the added art work to road signs, and this one played to Leonardo da Vinci. We were taken into the Fauchcons of Milan (like Paris's most extravagant food market) and it being near to Easter one could purchase an Egg for well over 100 Euros. I'd agree about the middle finger to spending that on an Easter egg, and this artist first had to donate his Finger-Sculpture to the City but now its permanent and a symbol of the square where it is located.



Their Basilica outside of central city was honoring a major holiday complete with a marching soldiers guard playing. This little guy followed along with his own trumpet. His playing, like Beverly's younger son played for years, was a teary eyed event for me. We watched some of the procession and ceremony inside the church before exiting to find a lovely old café of renown. The next church was tiny but memorable and is sometimes called their Sistine Chapel. The last picture? Our lovely hidden kitchen had very heavy dishes and very weak shelving, giving us a mess of many black broken dishes that shattered as much as across the room. The landlord was remiss to not give us sufficient help or pity especially since we had to clean it up pre our evening cocktail party. It was a Big Job.



With Alessandro, we'd noted an art museum featuring Giovanni Boldini and his work. It is hard to find his work though I have a print on my wall (see page 1) but here would be 17 from around the world on a temporary exhibit. The palazzo itself was on a huge park, featuring lovely rooms, lots of sculpture, and more Toulouse Lautrec originals than we've ever seen. We also enjoyed their Café.



We might have blown about \$300 each for a performance at La Scala Opera House but fortunately they were sold out. Or maybe not as the Bejart rendition of Ravel's Bolero was playing and having seen his work when we lived near to Brussels and studying from one of his students, it would have been memorable. Instead we went to La Scala's Museum and were able to see rehearsals too. There was a special exhibit of Maria Callas and her performances, dresses, plus art work. But the big event and the reason for Milan was outside of town, about 25 minutes by train, to this stadium. See the couple Canadian gals all wrapped in their flag? They were make-up painted in the flag colors too. The Canadians and Japanese are the most serious spectators, sometimes giving us as much entertainment as the ice rink.



I am about the farthest one can get from a skating/judging purist (I don't care for the jumping that gives skaters loads more points and takes away from those doing lovely choreography) and thus I especially enjoy the last day's Spectacular Event. Even Beverly who is a purist said this one was the best she'd ever seen. The skaters get to do what they love, what they do best, and can forget the judging and points need. There was Ballet, Leonardo da Vinci costumes, a funny skater with a puppet attached, lights and magic in the Cirque du Soleil effect, leading into fireworks and finally confetti that surely ruined the ice.



Skating was done but we had a few more days to tour, so what do we do but go back to the site of the Flash Mob Scene where it was quieter and we could do the tourist spin on the testicles of the wild boar. That insure you'll return to Milan. The other things to do to insure you'll return, or for most, is eat Gelato and here's Beverly fixing that need. Oddly, I've never had a desire to much more than taste the Italian type ice cream. This day would give us The Duomo at night and more street entertainment. See the little dog carrier? On our tram ride.

We had a day of hop on/hop off sight-seeing, with three loops available, and saving our last day for our third day with Alessandro. I knew Beverly would love their Monumental Cemetery, so we took a tram and more than enjoyed it – Alessandro entertained us nearly three hours there. It's hard to imagine how much effort, money, famous architects, building, etc. went into this Cemetery but clearly the competition for grave sites even elevates over Recolettos in Buenos Aires or Pere La Chasse in Paris. Beverly collects pictures of Angels and she surely has enough now.



The bigger than life size Last Supper is my favorite. All family members were sculpted and created at a local foundry.





Some artists and sculpture are seen on numerous crypts. One fellow wanted to be cremated at a time when it wasn't allowed or fashionable so he built a crematorium. Alessandro is confirming there is no fire left.



The acreage just goes on and on. One could never see it all and I believe Alessandro had even more stories to tell. This angel looked like she was out of wood. The ambulance/hearse museum was one I'd missed before.



We took another tram to the Navigli area where some of the locks designed and built by Leonardo da Vinci still exist. We had prior visited the Leonardo museum with Alessandro and you'll see my picture in the interior with him above. The Navigli area had lots of courtyards with art studios, and plenty of street musicians. I didn't know about this musical instrument that's operated just by hand movement but never touching.



The Navigli has numerous harbors and canals, with more bars and restaurants than in times past for me. On our way home from a day of about 9 miles, we would pass many more unique churches to include this 4<sup>th</sup> century piecemeal one. The End? Tom usually finds a sexy lingerie picture so in the interest of equal opportunity, here is a selection of men's "panties".

### ***Miscellaneous***

#### ***The Gala or Exhibition or Spectacular – and it sure was!***

Gala order/song titles - <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DZIS9i3WAAEnYCa.jpg:large>

#### ***A New Italy, Imagined by Artists and Demagogues***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/21/arts/design/italian-art-fondazione-prada-palazzo-strozzi.html>

***My note to BIL Carl at the last of the trip:*** Carl, We did well, we stayed busy. We had a great time, and we probably cried a little bit at night but all is well. All that is thanks to you for taking the rough stuff. Thank you for letting Beverly have a breather. I think you are Superman and a wonderful husband to give her this extra time. I'm sorry to realize that I'm probably sending her home and she'll get rid of her guilt and have some emotion but with you at her side it will all be well. If she didn't send them to you here are some pictures showing you how lovely Beverly looks and you'll soon see her again. Hugs, Diana



Beverly would go onto her destination of St Louis and instead of going home, she'd go clear out her recently departed elder son's home, and three days later depart to Seattle to visit Carl's daughter, family and their granddaughter. I call that a Super Woman!

### **Milan Facts**

- Milan is like a non-stop kaleidoscope. The city whose streets are jammed with fashionistas and lined with upscale restaurants, is a historical jewel. The precious past is illuminated here in every building, street, square and park.

- According to archaeologists, Milan was founded by the Celts in 600 BC. The Romans named the town Mediolanum, which means Mediterranean in Latin.
- Milan is the second largest Italian city (after Rome). Also, this city has a reputation as the economic capital of Italy.
- In 1833, the great composer Giuseppe Verdi came to Milan to enter the Conservatory, but he was not accepted. Among the reasons for this failure was poor level of piano playing and lack of musical talent. Now this Milan Conservatory bears the name of the “rejected” composer.
- The first stone of the Milan Cathedral was laid in 1386, and it was completed only in 80-ies of the XIX century. Thus the construction of this Cathedral lasted for nearly 500 years.
- In the famous Milan’s Palazzo Serbelloni Napoleon stayed with Josephine for 3 months in August 1796.
- The fresco Lord’s Supper by Leonardo da Vinci in Milan is kept in the Church of the Renaissance Santa Maria delle Grazie.
- The Central Square of Milan is covered with pigeons, but in spite of this, a statue of king Vittorio Emanuele II set on it always remains perfectly clean. The trick is the current that goes through the monument deterring birds.
- The first skyscraper ever built in Italy is the Pirelli tower in Milan.
- Milan City Day is celebrated on December 7, the commemoration day of the Saint of the Town of Saint Ambrose of Milan.
- Milan was one of the few European cities which was not reached by the plague in the XIV century.
- In the National Museum of Science and Technology are stored all the most famous works of the great artist and inventor — Leonardo da Vinci.
- The Milan tram network is the most developed in Western Europe.
- The trolleybus network in Milan represents a ring around the center of the city, which has branches to the suburbs.
- During the Second World War Milan was subjected to carpet bombing – raids were almost continuous, Milan was covered with a huge number of bombs.
- Milan is home to two of the strongest teams in the Italian football League clubs Inter and Milan. Milan is owned by ex-Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is a big football fan. Both teams play at the San Siro stadium which is considered to be the largest stadium in Italy.
- The tradition of the aperitif was laid precisely by the Milanese and is one of the oldest secular traditions of Italians. The aperitif is the Italian version of the Anglo-Saxon happy. Almost all Milan’s cafes and bars offer an aperitif. The traditional time of the aperitif is 19:00 – 21:00.
- Milan boasts one of the largest and most famous Opera houses in Europe -Teatro ala Scala seats over 2000 spectators. The theater is recognized as one of the leading Opera and ballet theaters in the world.

**Some more by another writer:**

- Milan has the most skyscrapers in Italy.
- When Napoleon came to these lands, he created the Kingdom of Italy and was crowned King in the Milan Cathedral in 1805, when the city was declared capital of the kingdom.
- During the Austrian rule of Milan, the city became the focal point of opera. Mozart gave three premier performances from the stage of the Teatro Regio Ducal.
- The Teatro alla Scala is the largest opera house in Europe – each performance can be enjoyed by over 2,000 spectators. The opera house also has a museum, so you can glance its stage even without a ticket for an opera performance.
- The Milan Cathedral is the 5th largest cathedral in the world. Its construction began in 1386 and continued for over 600 years. The Duomo wasn’t completed until 1965.

- The church of Santa Maria delle Grazie is made famous by the fact that it houses the original painting “The Last Supper” by Leonardo da Vinci. Before visiting it, most visitors don’t realize that it was actually painted on the wall of what once was the monastery’s dining room.
- Every night, from 7 PM to 9 PM, it is time for aperitivo in Milan – the bars and cafes offer huge spreads of food, which everyone can enjoy for free after buying a drink (usually a cocktail or a glass of wine). This is the time for snacking and discussions with friends.
- Anyone can “adopt” a gargoyle from the façade decorations of the Milan Cathedral. The campaign is a part of an effort to preserve the symbol of Milan. The price of a gargoyle is 100,000 euros.
- It is estimated that a third of the Filipino population of the world lives in Milan.
- Milan also has canals – in the Navigli district. They were built to help the transportation of goods from the local lakes to the city. For instance, they were used to bring the marble used for the building of the Milan Cathedral. Today, the canals are no longer used for the transportation of goods, but instead tourist boats can be seen around. Hidden away in the Navigli district is one of the 8 secret locations to fall in love with Italy.

Some more facts and with pictures: [https://routes.tips/amp/blog/10\\_fun\\_facts\\_about\\_milan](https://routes.tips/amp/blog/10_fun_facts_about_milan)

## ***Itinerary***

### **Wed Mar 14 - Beverly**

10:45am Depart St Louis STL via UA#4071  
2:19pm Arrive Newark EWR for plane change

### **- Beverly and Diana**

6:25pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#19

### **Thu Mar 15**

7:25am Arrive Milan – car arranged and confirmed by landlord

Per landlord: He has “booked a private transfer from Malpensa airport. You can pay the amount directly to the taxi driver. He will wait for you at the exit just after the custom controls and he will hold a sign with your name (Diana Burton).

Apartment Rental at Via Broletto, 39 in Brera area, Milan 20121  
[www.vrbo.com/6542133ha](http://www.vrbo.com/6542133ha)  
2 bedroom, 2 bath, 970 sq. ft. (no microwave)

Massimo Cappelletti, landlord at +39 388 755 1691  
[www.BnButler.it](http://www.BnButler.it) [info@BnButler.it](mailto:info@BnButler.it) also Ginevra.  
Ginevra – BnButler, Via Principe Eugenio, 9, 20155 - Milano (MI), Tel. +39 0235998592

Federico to welcome at the apartment: cell: +39 3209265152.

Metro stops include Red Line Cordusio or Red Line Cairoli/Castle  
or Green Line Lanza M2 direct to Assago (a ¼ mile or 400 meters walk).  
1300' from La Scala; 1300' from Castle

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wine), still and sparkling water along with a wide scope of essential products such as oil, salt, pepper, sugar, coffee etc .. ) so you can cook whatever you want. The house is also comfortable and close to butchers, bakers, fishmongers and supermarkets. For any need, or particular purchase, we will always be available to you, we can purchase CHAUVET fact all you want.

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On your arrival will deliver the keys, we will show you the apartment and all its facilities, and we will give you all the indications and information you need. We will always be at your disposal for any requests, tips or information about your stay in Milan.

### **Fri Mar 16**

**Tourist day #1:** Arrange with Alessandro Pini [pini.alessandro@gmail.com](mailto:pini.alessandro@gmail.com)

Or hop on/hop off that has three different loops plus a boat ride on Navigli. Can start with three different loops from apartment area.

City Sightseeing has a 48 hour bus ticket that includes admission to the Last Supper and visit with guide, available on Fridays, with reservation required. Cost in 2009 was 50€.

### **Sat Mar 17**

**Tourist day #2:** See list of tourist suggestions below.

### **Sun Mar 18**

**Tourist day #3.** See list of tourist suggestions below

8:00pm Invite Ginna and Richard Sabatini and Nancy Porter to apartment for hors d' oeuvres and drinks; later included Judy, Nancy's roommate from Detroit

### **Mon Mar 19**

Practice? [www.Milano2018.com](http://www.Milano2018.com) - Venue is Mediolanum, Via Giuseppe di Vittorio, Assago, MI, Italy 20090. Seating: Section 18 1<sup>st</sup> row, seat 14 & 15.

**Tourist ½ day?** Museums (some) are closed on Monday

### **Tue Mar 20**

Practice?

### **Wed Mar 21**

10.45 - 16.55 Ladies – Short programme

18.00 – 18.30 Opening ceremony

18.45 – 23.00 Pairs – Short programme (tickets show 18:00 to cover opening ceremony)

### **LEONARDO DA VINCI AND THE RENAISSANCE WILL BE THE BEATING HEART OF MILANO 2018 OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships® Milano 2018, that will take place on Wednesday March 21st at the Mediolanum Forum (starting at 5.30 pm) and that will precede the pairs short program, will be focused on Leonardo Da Vinci and the historical period of which the famous artist was is considered to be one of the greatest exponents and talents, the Renaissance.

Conceived by the renowned choreographer Corrado Giordani, art director of the event, the ceremony will describe and celebrate the strong bond of Leonardo with the city of Milan and with the Italian culture, through passion, grace, beauty and strength. Characteristics, those mentioned, intrinsic to figure skating and for this reason represented inside the logo of this year's World Figure Skating Championships, through the decorative motif of the Da Vinci knots.

After the traditional institutional introduction, the first unmissable moment will be the playing of the Italian anthem, with the presence of the Fanfara dell'Aeronautica Militare Italiana in dress uniform and the prestigious choir of the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala di Milano, that consists of 70 treble voices. Right after it the "Sbandieratori e musicisti città di Legnano", with their drum rolls, flags and original costumes will lead the fans into the Renaissance world of Leonardo. Three will be the key elements at the heart of the fascinating air evolutions of the French acrobatic company "Les Farfadais" that will amaze the public:

The Vitruvian Man, the most famous Leonardo's drawing, that represents the symbolic union between art and science  
The snowflake that symbolize nature, whose ingenuity was considered by Leonardo to be superior to human design  
The flying man, symbol of the union between nature and man, as well as of evolution, change and growth  
Furthermore, five characters in period costumes will always be present and will follow the evolutions in an ideal "Renaissance picture" situated on a platform.

The show will end in a festive atmosphere to the strains of the official song of Milano 2018, "Fire on ice" by Bianca Atzei, that will be performed on the rink by the "Hot Shivers", multiple Italian champions in synchronized skating, and on the stands by the young dancers of the "Teatro Oscar" of Milan. Also a video at:

<http://www.milano2018.com/en/leonardo-vinci-and-the-the-renaissance-will-be-the-beating-heart-of-milano-2018-opening-ceremony/>

### **Thu Mar 22**

10.00 - 15.45 Men – Short programme  
18.55 – 21.55 Pairs – Free skate

### **Fri Mar 23**

11:00 – 16.15 Ice dance – Short dance  
18.30 – 22.25 Ladies – Free skate

### **Sat Mar 24**

10:00 – 14.05 Men – Free skate  
15.20 – 18.35 Ice dance – Free dance

### **Sun Mar 25**

14:30 - 17:00 Exhibition gala

### **Mon Mar 26**

**Tourist day #4** – note that many museums closed on Monday. See list of tourist suggestions below

### **Tue Mar 27**

**Tourist day #5** – See list of tourist suggestions below – if time consider a day trip to Lake Como

### **Wed Mar 28 – Beverly and Diana**

10:30am Depart Milan MXP via UA#18  
1:45pm Arrive Newark EWR for plane change

#### **- Beverly**

4:00pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#4202  
6:00pm Arrive St Louis STL

### **Emergency**

Consulate General of the U.S. in Milan

Principe Amedeo Street, 2/10 – 20121 Milan Tele: +39 02 290351  
Registered at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Apartment at Via Broletto, 39 (Brera area) Milan 20121  
Massimo Cappelletti, landlord at +39 388 755 1691 [www.BnButler.it](http://www.BnButler.it)  
[Massimo@BnButler.it](mailto:Massimo@BnButler.it)

Emergency Assistance Plus Program – 24/7  
United Mileage Plus member #0186014 (card in file and in D's Wallet)  
Tele: 866 816 2073 or 60 328 1752 collect

**Tourist Ideas and help:**

[https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Milan/Centro\\_Storico](https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Milan/Centro_Storico)

Rick Steves 2-stars: Duomo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, La Scala Opera House and Museum, Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio and The Last supper

Rick Steves 1-stars: Piazza del Duomo, Museo del Novecento, Gallerie d'Italia, Church of San Maurizio, Leonardo da Vinci National Science and Technology Museum, Brera Art Gallery, Risorgimento Museum, Storza Castle with Museums, Via Dante, Naviglio Grande Canal, Monumental Cemetery (which we think should be a 3-star)

Arrange with Alessandro Pini [pini.alessandro@gmail.com](mailto:pini.alessandro@gmail.com) for ½ day afternoon tour once or twice depending on practice schedule

In Milan, Tours for Beer, History and, of Course, Fashion - The New York Times - too pricey but ideas.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/travel/milan-italy-beer-history-fashion-tours.html?emc=edit\\_tl\\_20170707&nl=travel-dispatch&nl\\_art=&nlid=22982744&ref=img&te=1&r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/travel/milan-italy-beer-history-fashion-tours.html?emc=edit_tl_20170707&nl=travel-dispatch&nl_art=&nlid=22982744&ref=img&te=1&r=0)

48 hours in Milan: hotels, restaurants and places to visit:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/48-hours-in/italy-holidays-milan-city-break-best-hotels-restaurants-tourist-attractions-a7205511.html>

Must see: Cemetery - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimitero\\_Monumentale\\_di\\_Milano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimitero_Monumentale_di_Milano)  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g187849-d243431-Reviews-Monumental\\_Cemetery-Milan\\_Lombardy.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g187849-d243431-Reviews-Monumental_Cemetery-Milan_Lombardy.html)

City Sightseeing hop on/hop off bus: <https://city-sightseeing.com/en/55/milan>

They also advertise [www.livemilano.com](http://www.livemilano.com) with a  
Mon and Friday 4pm Skyline tour for 40 Euros,  
a Milano by night with happy hour on Friday at 8pm, and a  
Tram Restaurant every day at 8pm.  
Lake Como day tour only Monday and Saturday in winter.

Food tour? Through old Brera section starting at 10am with quality food at 65 Euros per person.  
<http://www.milanfoodtours.com/> 3 hours, max 12. No Sunday.

**Misc Skate Notes**

**Silver Blade** (Skate?) seating: Section 19 Leonardo (Sett 19) rows 1-4.



**UniWorld** Angela takes a day trip to the Lakes; staying in Central Station area at UNA Century Hotel; Uniworld seating “across from judging”, rows 5-10.  
UniWorld going to Lakes 13-18<sup>th</sup> and to Amalfi Coast 26-30<sup>th</sup>

**Skatefantours.com** Diane Knowlton in Sec B-19, row 2

**Our seats:** Sector B-18, Row 1, Seats 14-15

**Nancy Porter** at Rosa Grand Hotel, Piazza Fontana 3, Duomo area, Seating in Section B-21, Row 2, Seat 7

Nancy travels on the 14<sup>th</sup>, arrive in Verona on 15<sup>th</sup>. 3 nights in Verona, then to Milan for 8; then Sorrento for four. Home on 30<sup>th</sup>. Open on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> afternoon or Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> afternoon. Day tour to Lake Como on Monday. ½ day Milan walking tour Tuesday morning. Wednesday starts 9:00am departures to rink.

**Ginna and Richard Sabatini** “arrive on 17<sup>th</sup> - depart the 26<sup>th</sup>. At the Rosa Grand Milano hotel on Piazza Fontana. Mar 19 & 20 we have tour excursions and March \_\_\_ ? is a Hop Day Pass on our own. In Sec A19, row 3, seats 1 & 2. Later 17<sup>th</sup> possible or 19<sup>th</sup> has some freedom.

**Quads?** Could that be why we’re missing Jason Brown and other beauties? I’m downright tired of these athletic kids when I want to watch lovely choreography. Or to quote a friend: Nothing exciting to me to watch them going back and forth across the rink then doing a big jump. If that continues, maybe they should have a new special sport called “ice jumping,” kind of like the ski aerials or big air jumps in snowboarding...?

**Guide** to skating terms: <http://time.com/5139060/olympic-figure-skating-pyeongchang-guide/>

**Five myths** about figure skating: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/five-myths/five-myths-about-figure-skating/2018/02/08/8db38f96-0c5c-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/five-myths/five-myths-about-figure-skating/2018/02/08/8db38f96-0c5c-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7_story.html)

### **Reminders**

Download Google offline map of Milan

Download Italian translate

Pack: Bar soap, washcloth, Kleenex tissues, zip baggies, condiments packages