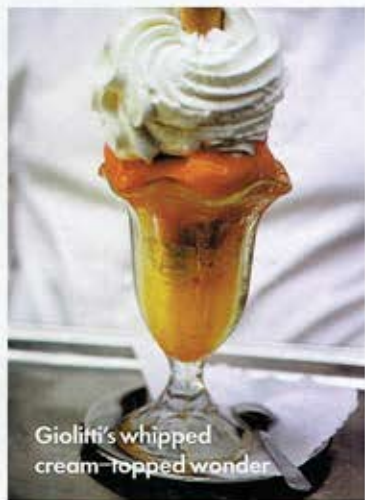


Preserved flavor at Enoteca al Parlamento di Ardhilli

### GRAPPA AND MORE

You can spend hours browsing **Enoteca al Parlamento di Achilli's** artisanal jams, mostarda di frutta, and pickles—not to mention its grappas and rare whiskeys. But the main event is the wine, which can be sipped by the glass—with caviar-topped canapés—at the bar up front. Via de' Prefetti 15 (06-687-3446).



Giolitti's whipped cream-topped wonder

### COLD COMFORT

For some of us, a daily visit to an ice cream emporium is a must when in Rome. The servers at sterile **San Crispino** aren't terribly friendly, but the gelato—particularly the honey and the pear—is fantastic. Romans dote on **Ciampini**, whose *giandua* and coconut gelatos are rich

and creamy. Little can top **Giolitti's** wonderful fruit flavors (try the pink grapefruit and blackberry). The six-year-old **Al Settimo Gelo** (see page 105), in out-of-the-way Prati, has become a hit with Rome's *buongustai*, who adore Mirella Fiumanò's offbeat delights like cardamom-sesame and honey. **Il Gelato di San Crispino**, Via della Panetteria 42, Via Bevagna 90, and Via Acaia 56 (06-679-3929). **Ciampini**, Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina 29 (06-168-76606). **Giolitti**, Via Uffici del Vicario 40 (06-699-1243). **Al Settimo Gelo**, Via Vodice 21 (06-372-55567).

### MUSIC CITY

Renzo Piano's monumental new music complex finally opened this year. The three concert halls in the **Parco della Musica** call to mind giant beetles with brass backs—a reference to the metallic cupolas on many city churches. An amphitheater hosts outdoor concerts. Viale Pietro de Coubertin 30 (06-802-41).

### A PERSONAL SHOPPER

If you're looking for someone who knows every designer, every hairdresser, and seemingly every person on the streets of

Rome, **Barbara Lessona** is the one for you. Spending half a day (\$200) with this young contessa pays for itself in fun alone. (348-450-3655).

### TOY WONDER

The 58-year-old **Al Sogno** sweeps you away no matter what your age. Kids go wild over the giant stuffed animals; collectors ogle the porcelain dolls; motorheads admire the model Ferraris; and history buffs lose themselves in the Trojan War chess sets, each figurine in period costume down to the last buckle. **Piazza Navona 53** (06-686-4198).



Kids of all ages go for Al Sogno.

### CLASS CEILING

When you enter a great church, your first instinct is to gaze up, to heaven. When you look skyward in **Sant' Ignazio**, **Andrea dal Pozzo's** frescoes make it hard to return your gaze to earth. Cherubs execute radical moves on what look like celestial skateboards, and faux marble columns rise into infinity. Plus the immense *trompe l'oeil* cupola, in somber grays and blacks, makes you feel you're communing with heaven itself. **Piazza di Sant' Ignazio**.

### SNEAKER HEAVEN

What Nike is to technology and Adidas is to street credibility, **Superga** is to cute. Here you'll find an entire boutique of the company's chic sneakers—in permutations and colors you scarcely thought possible. **Via Maddalena 30** (06-686-8737).

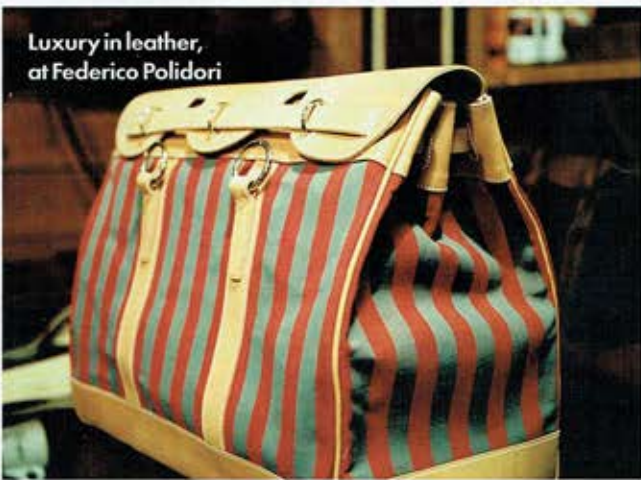
### LEATHER LEGEND

Roman nobles have long sought him out for monogrammed rifle cases, and the painter **Balthus** asked him to craft a special traveling bag. It's no wonder: **Federico Polidori** designs each of his bags and briefcases with the client before sewing them by hand. **Via Piè di Marmo 7-8** (06-679-7191).

### FLOWER POWER

Sure we coveted the suits and bags at the **Valentino** and **Fendi** boutiques, but what we really wondered was, "Where can we get those flowers?" The Swiss designers behind **Tulipani Bianchi** combine blooms and branches with unusual fruits to come up with breathtaking creations. **Via dei Bergamaschi 59** (06-678-5449). **more** ▶

Luxury in leather, at Federico Polidori



PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EMANUELE MASCIONI; ROMULO YANES; ANDREA FAZZARI; JEAN-FRANÇOIS MAILLET