

shop

There are some good places to be discovered in this district, including some intriguing shops along Via di San Giovanni in Laterano (**map p. 21, C3–C4**). The Monti district (**map p. 21, A2–A3**) is the 'district of the hills' and has at its boundaries the Esquiline to the south and the Quirinal to the north. In Ancient Rome this area was the Subura, the rough part of town inhabited by prostitutes and thieves. Nowadays it preserves some old-fashioned streets and has been transformed, with plenty of boutiques and gourmet shops.

At Via di San Giovanni in Laterano 58, **Stampe e Dipinti Antichi Arte Contemporanea** is a fantastic shop that sells antique lithographs and prints, and exudes old-school Roman class and charm. If you are planning to buy an art souvenir of your trip, then this is the place. The shop has links with several contemporary painters, but it is the limited-edition etchings and *aquafortes* of Rossini and Giovanni Battista Piranesi, who had a workshop on the Via del Corso, where this shop comes into its own. Piranesi, a great influence on Neoclassicism, was enchanted by Rome, and here you can purchase prints of his drawings of the ancient remains.

At no. 116 is **Passion**, which sells flowers, chocolates and other goods to ensure a romantic stay in the city that gave birth to the word.

Suzuganaru Uomo, at no. 204 is a mod-style clothing store which

began selling to Anglophile locals and tourists alike four years ago. Owner Fabio says his mission is to provide 'something English, something Italian', and stocks a large selection from the Lambretta label, an English company with an Italian name, which burst onto the scene in 1997. In fact, the mod phenomenon is a rare example of British culture repackaging, something that it borrowed from Italy in the first place, as mopeds and loafers were staples of any self-respecting mod, and anyone around in the 1960s will associate the Lambretta scooter with this Italian-influenced style. This place specialises in retro shirts and coats, served with a friendly attitude.

Studio242, a framing house at no. 242, is owned by Massimo Musti, who followed his father into the trade 20 years ago. You can use this shop for a high-quality bespoke frame for your recently-purchased

painting. Musti is also a restorer and puppet-maker.

In the Monti district the parallel streets of Vicolo dei Serpenti and Via del Boschetto have the most interesting selection of shops.

Spazio Artigiano, at Vicolo dei Serpenti 13, specialises in luxurious, handmade goods from all over Italy. Ceramics from Sicily and beautifully coloured glassware are elegantly displayed. The owner, Christina Venezia, also creates her own fabrics on a loom in her studio: shawls, throws and cushion covers in natural materials such as linen, alpaca wool or silk. This is definitely a stop-off for that special gift to take home.

Il Giardino del Te, at Via del Boschetto 3, has a wonderful range of tea for those who loved

Babington's English Tea Room (see p. 91) but can't afford to drink there every day. At Giardino del Te you can't drink the tea on the premises but you can search through the shelves of Nilgiri, Pekoe, Sikkim, Snow Dragon, Yin Zhen and Gunpowder leaves for your special brew at home. In true Italian style, this teashop also sells a selection of coffee.

If you didn't bring the right wardrobe on holiday with you or you feel the need to splash out on a custom-made outfit then **Tina Sondergaard** at Via del Boschetto 1d is the place to visit. She is known for her unusual fabrics and retro-style and can provide anything from wool coats to evening dresses to casual suits.

Souvenir replicas of classical artwork for sale outside the Colosseum

