

1001 RESTAURANTS

YOU MUST EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU DIE

PREFACE
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Ristorante Baretto di San Vigilio | A lesson in simple style

Location Bergamo **Signature dish** Beef with olive oil and polenta | \$\$\$

Baretto di San Vigilio perches at the very top of the Città Alta (upper city) of Bergamo. It takes two funicular rides and a pair of sturdy shoes to get here, but, once you have arrived, you will feel truly rewarded: you can choose to sit under a flowery, umbrella-covered pergola, with a 360-degree view of beautiful Bergamo stretching before you, or you might opt for a table in the very elegant dining room.

Tables are covered in fine linen, colorful flower arrangements are dotted around wooden dressers, the wine list showcases the very best of Italian wines, and the waiters are trained to listen with great attention. If you would like to see how an excellent restaurant is run—this is the ideal.

The menu is short and simple, showcasing local and regional ingredients simply and authentically, in season, and with minimum fuss but maximum technical know-how. As you ponder what to order, listening to the birdsong outside and admiring the

chic guests, the waiters bring out tasty amuse-bouches to go with a pre-dinner prosecco or Campari cocktail.

The chefs create some excellent risotti, pasta dishes, charcuterie, and warm salads as starters, and the beef and freshwater fish dishes are a tour de force. Do leave room for dessert, though: the fresh fruit salads, zabaione, chocolate cake, and Italian trifle are all worth sampling.

What is so wonderful about this little restaurant is the consistency of everything it offers: you can dine here for both lunch and dinner every day of the week, and the standard will always be high. The place is also frequented by many locals—always a very good sign, particularly as they choose Baretto for weddings, christenings, and other family occasions. You will still be talking about this restaurant long after you return home. **SdS**

📍 The appealing dining room at Baretto di San Vigilio.