

## Leonardo: The Milan Years (1482-1499)

- 1482.- Leonardo moves to Milan to work for Ludovico Sforza.  
Sixtus IV begins the decoration of the Sistine chapel
- 1483.- On April 23, Leonardo, along with the Predieri brothers, signs the contract to paint the Virgin of the Rocks for the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception in its chapel in the church of San Francisco il Grande in Milan.  
Birth of Raphael, in Urbino.
- 1484.- Botticelli paints the Birth of Venus.  
Pope Sixtus IV dies. New Pope: Innocent IV
- 1485.- Leonardo painting portrait of Cecilia Gallerani, mistress of Ludovico Sforza.  
Leonardo observes a total eclipse of the sun  
Birth of Titian
- 1486.- First sermons by Savonarola in Florence
- 1487.- Leonardo completes plans for the Tiburio (domed crossing tower) of Milan's cathedral.  
Also drawing grotesque heads, Windsor collection.
- 1488.- Leonardo draws studies of domed churches  
Death of Verrocchio, just before the casting of the Colleoni monument.
- 1489.- Leonardo studies anatomy (Book entitled "On the human figure", Windsor collection)  
Ludovico Sforza gives the task of creating the Sforza monument to Leonardo
- 1490.- Leonardo produces the stage for the feast of Paradise to celebrate the wedding of the young Duke Gian Galeazzo Sforza to Isabella of Aragon.  
Leonardo continues to work on the Sforza horse.  
In June he travels to Pavia with the great Siennese engineer Francesco di Giorgio to visit the fortifications and plan rebuilding of the cathedral.  
On July 22, Salai (Gian Giacomo Caprotti), 10 years old, arrives to become a pupil and member of the household of Leonardo.  
Leonardo paints Portrait of a Musician (Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, Milan)
- 1491.- On Jan 26, Leonardo prepares festival for wedding of Ludovico Sforza and Beatrice d'Este, from Ferrara.

- 1492.- Leonardo travels to lake Como region. Thoughts on Geology.  
 Death of Lorenzo de' Medici. His son Piero replaces him as ruler of Florence.  
 Christopher Columbus discovers America  
 Pope Alexander VI elected  
 Death of Piero della Francesca  
 The last bastion of Islam in Spain (Granada) falls to the Catholic Kings
- 1493.- Leonardo's clay model for the gigantic horse of the Sforza monument is displayed in Milan for the festivities on the occasion of the wedding of Emperor Maximilian with Bianca Maria Sforza.  
 Bernardo Belincioni's poem praises the portrait of Cecilia Gallerani.
- 1494.- Italian wars begin. Charles VIII of France invades Italy to conquer Naples.  
 Ludovico Sforza sends the bronze for the cavallo to his father-in-law, Ercole d'Este, Duke of Ferrara, to make cannons.  
 Piero de' Medici flees Florence. Savonarola 's power increasing.
- 1495.- Leonardo begins the Last Supper in the refectory of the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.  
 He may also be at work on the decoration of rooms in the Castello Sforzesco.  
 He may also have started this year the second version of the Virgin of the Rocks (National Gallery, London)  
 Charles the VIII withdraws with his army back to France after the bloody battle of Fornovo.
- 1496.- Leonardo draws the illustrations for Luca Pacioli's De Divina Proportione.  
 He probably begins painting La Belle Ferroniere (Louvre) this year.  
 Death of Beatrice d'Este, wife of Ludovico Sforza.  
 Emperor Maximilian enters Italy at the request of the Pope
- 1497.- Leonardo still working on the last Supper, being urged to finish by Ludovico.  
 Vasco da Gama sails around the cape of Good Hope and reaches India
- 1498.- Leonardo decorates the Salle delle Asse in the Castello Sforzesco  
 In France, Charles VIII dies, his cousin succeeds him as Louis XII  
 Girolamo Savonarola is burnt at the stake in Florence.
- 1499.- Leonardo receives a vineyard in Milan from Ludovico.  
 French troops of Louis XII storm the city, led by Trivulzio, an Italian mercenary.  
 Ludovico leaves Milan for Austria  
 Leonardo sends money to his account in Santa Maria Nuova Hospital in anticipation of his return to Florence.