

HONOR TRADITION

ROMANCE LIKE ROMEO

Sorry technophiles, but E-mail missives just ain't as hot as a note in your own handwriting. Instead, head to one of Paper Affair's six locations and ask for Arturo Fine Stationery, made by Pescia-based Cartiere Magnani. It's the same brand that Italy's most famous lover, poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, used for printing his books. "Cartiere Magnani has been making fine art paper since 1404," says store co-owner, Tracy Wegener. Made of 100 percent cotton with deckled edging, it comes in natural white, white, celadon and—for the teenager in you—blush pink and baby blue. *Multiple locations, 2385 Peachtree Road, 404.237.2164, www.paperaffair.com.*

DECORATE LIKE A PRINCE OR PRINCESS

That means shopping for sumptuous fabrics and hand-crafted furniture with your lady-in-waiting—or your interior decorator. Great trade-only textiles include luxurious Coraggio fabrics (\$98 to \$595 per yard, MSRP), made in Italian mills from Como to Naples, and sold at Ainsworth-Noah in the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. "They use a lot of mohair and cotton velvet. The colorations are wonderful because of the quality of the yarns," says Hal Ainsworth. While at ADAC, stop off at Smith Grubbs & Associates, to take a look at the imported Artitalia furniture from Venice. The limited-production Vere Antichità collection is hand-crafted from a combination of original 17th-century wooden panels from Italian villas and palaces, as well as reclaimed walnut, cherry and cypress wood. *Available to the trade only. Ainsworth-Noah, ADAC, 351 Peachtree Hills Avenue, Suite 518, 404.231.8787, www.ainsworth-noah.com. Smith Grubbs & Associates, ADAC, Suite 303, 404.239.9206, www.smithgrubbs.com.*



Madonna and Child by Giovanni Bellini, ca. 1510, at the High Museum of Art



Renzo Piano's High Museum of Art addition

INVEST IN ANTIQUES

Escape from everyone and make a day of antique hunting on your own. Excellent sources of 17th- to 19th-century Italian antiques include: Regalo Antiques, which carries hand-painted Italian furniture from Parma and Genoa, plus gilded wood and crystal chandeliers ranging from \$2,900 to \$30,000; Jeff Littrell Antiques, where almost everything is Italian, from tapestries to 400-year-old birdbaths; and Laura Walker Antiques, which sells Italian furniture and accessories, including handbags and vintage furs, from 1690 to 1940. *Regalo Antiques, 351 Peachtree Hills Ave., Suite 137, 404.237.4899, www.regaloantiques.com. Jeff Littrell Antiques, 178 Peachtree Hills Ave., 404.231.8662. Laura Walker Antiques, 404.467.4209 (please call for the new address, which was not available at presstime).*

LEARN FROM THE MASTERS

The Old Master paintings, that is. A reliable source of museum-quality Italian paintings from the 17th to 18th centuries is Spalding Nix Fine Art gallery. At presstime, it was selling "Dog with Game" (\$16,500), an oil on canvas painted by Giacomo Nani (ca. 1698 to 1770). To learn about the Old Masters, go to the High Museum of Art, which has a large collection from the 14th through 18th centuries, acquired through a Samuel H. Kress Foundation bequest. You can find works by Giovanni Bellini (ca. 1430 to 1516) and Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (ca. 1696 to 1770), among many others. Several are on display through March and April, including "Madonna and Child" (shown here) by Giovanni Bellini (ca. 1510). While there, make sure to tour the newly expanded areas of the museum, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano. The museum has educational architecture workshops on Piano's work for children ages 10 to 14 on March 18 and 25, as well. *Spalding Nix Fine Art, The Galleries of Peachtree Hills, 425 Peachtree Hills Ave., Suite 30A, 404.844.7777, www.spaldingnixfineart.com. The High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St., 404.733.4444, www.high.org.*