

Istanbul

360 Istanbul -This ultra-modern restaurant/club overlooking the Bosphorus caters to a crowd as international as its fusion cuisine. With dishes like tandoori chicken pizza and zucchini blossom dolmas, 360 was all the rage among local hipsters until Mikla's recent opening. (Departures Magazine) Istiklal Caddesi, Misir Apt. K:8 N:3", Beyoglu. Tel: 212-251-1042.

Balikci Sabahattin -Traditional fish meals at reasonable prices. One does not have a menu; you are brought a large selection of cold mezzes (appetizers), some hot appetizers and then you choose a fish to be cooked. Do NOT come here if you are in a hurry. Meals are long and leisurely. Sit outside if the weather permits. Sehit Hasan Kuyu Sokak, No:1, Cankurtaran. Tel: 212-458-1824.

Beyti Restaurant -Famed for their special marinating and charcoal-grilling techniques, Beyti offers traditional meat dishes in an elegant atmosphere featuring traditional Ottoman-Turkish architecture and decorative motifs. Osman Sokek, No:8, Florya. Tel: 212-663-2990.

Blue House Restaurant (Mavi Ev) -Located in the old city center, the Blue House features three restaurants: in summer, enjoy the Garden Restaurant's natural setting and amazing view of the near-by Blue Mosque or the rooftop Terrace Restaurant's commanding view of the Marmara and the Hagia Sophia. In winter, guests are served in the tasteful Indoor Restaurant. All three specialize in traditional Ottoman cuisine, but include Italian and seafood items on the menu. Delbestt Sok. No:14, 34112 Sultanahmet Tel: 212-638-9010.

Bogazir;ji Borsa -Spacious, modern ambience with an authentic regional menu featuring only the finest local ingredients. The keskek, a wheat berry risotto with shreds of lamb, and the pilaki, a tomatoey Armenian stew simmered for 12 hours, are especially noteworthy. For a more modern take on Mediterranean cuisine, try the Bogazir;ji Loft located downstairs from Borsa. (Departures Magazine) Darulbedai, Cad., Istanbul Convention Center, Harbiye. Borsa Tel: 212-232-4201; Loft Tel: 212-219-6384.

Borsa Lokantasi -Outstanding meats. Yalikoskusku Ishani 60, Eminonu. Tel: 212522-4173.

CIYA

Ciya is the collective name of three restaurants owned by talented chef Musa Dağdeviren in the Kadiköy district, a lively waterfront neighborhood just across the Bosphorus from Sultanahmet. Among the trio, **Ciya Sofrasi**, a simple, friendly place where most of the waiters speak English, is perfect for lunch (the trans-Bosphorus ferries run infrequently after the local rush hour, so dinner is quiet and cabs are hard to come by). The menu changes often, but dishes to look for include the delicious red lentil soup, roasted lamb with garlic and bulgur pilaf, and a succulent kebab. Caferaga Mah Güneslibahce Sk. No. 43 216-336-3013 (US\$40)

Develi Restaurant -Outstanding kebabs and breads. Tepecik Yolu, No:22, Etiler. Tel: 212-632-7982.

Divan Restaurant -Traditional Ottoman cooking. Divan Hotel. CUMHURİYET CAD. No:2 ELMADA 34437 TAKSIM/ Istanbul: 212-231-4100.

GIRITLI

Istanbul is a great city for seafood, and the best place to sample the local catch is this bustling restaurant on the waterfront that features Cretan style dishes. Be forewarned, however, that it serves a single prix-fixe menu, so it is possible that not every dish will be to your taste. Highlights of a recent visit included delicious octopus and squid before the main fish course. Keresteci Hakki Sokak, Cankurtaran, Ahirkapi (US\$70)

HAMDI

With a wonderful view over the Bosphorus, this busy restaurant is a great place to sample some of the kebabs that are a classic of the southeastern Turkish kitchen. The fistikli kebab (ground lamb with pistachios) is especially delicious. Tahmis Caddesi Kalçin Sokak No. 17, Eminönü (US\$45)

Hammam Restaurant -*Beautiful ambience. Glass restaurant at very edge of Golden Horn. In summertime, lovely al fresco dining. Very fashionable among the Istanbul elite. International and fish cuisine. SEPETC;/LER KASR/, S/RKECI-EM/NONa -ISTANBUL TEL: 212-511-6386.*

HUNKAR 1950

Located in the stylish Nişantaşı neighborhood, this restaurant specializes in Ottoman cooking and recalls the days when the Ottoman Empire spread from Bulgaria to Tunisia. Recommended dishes include yellow lentil soup with croutons and lemon; baked stuffed eggplant and stuffed cabbage rolls; hünkar beg'endi ("the sultan's delight"), a rich lamb stew with eggplant purée; and lamb shanks with orzo in a light tomato sauce. Mim Kemal Oke Caddesi 21, Nişantaşı (US\$60)

Kale Cay Bahçesi -*Situated near the Rumeli Hisari Fortress along the Bosphorus promenade, Kale Cay Behçesi offers a traditional Turkish breakfast of tete, olives, cucumbers, simit and jam -plus an ideal outdoor setting for weekend people watching. (Departures Magazine) Yahya Kemal Cad.,Rumeli Hiseri, Tel: 212-257 5578.*

Kosebasi -*Voted one of the "World's 50 Best Restaurants" by Conde Nast Traveler magazine and awarded with International Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industries Prize as "the best representative of the traditional Turkish cuisine." Kosebasi was also cited as "the best kebab restaurant in Istanbul" by Time magazine. Several locations, including the ultra-hip Nisantasi neighborhood. Bronz Sokek, No: 5, Macka, Nisantasi, Tel for Nisantasi: 212-230-3868.*

MABEYIN

Occupying an elegant white mansion, this sophisticated upscale restaurant offers a calm and stylish setting in which to discover the classics of the Turkish kitchen, including an excellent selection of mezzes and kebabs. It also serves delicious steaks and lamb dishes if you prefer a simpler and less vividly seasoned meal, and the selection of Turkish wines is outstanding. Eski Kisikli Cad. No. 129 (US\$70)

Nis Restaurant (two locations)-*Serving as both a restaurant and jazz club, Nis Nisantasi was once a venue for mainly young musicians, but now caters to a slightly more mature crowd. Its menu features Mediterranean cuisine with an emphasis on fresh, local produce. Jazz performances daily from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In the Nisantasi district. Nis Reina, in Ortakoy, features a different menu in the summer also emphasizing local produce. Nis Nisantasi: Abdi Ipekr;i Cad. Azer Is Merkezi. No: 44, Tel: 0212-296-9555. Nis Reina: Muallim Naci C. No: 44, Tel: 212-259-5919.*

Pandeli -*Located on the second floor near the entrance to the Spice Market, this beautiful restaurant offers a diverse, well-priced menu. Open daytime only. Mtstr Cer ISI No:1 Eminonu Tel: 212 -527-3909.*

Pars Restaurant -*A good opportunity to sample excellent Persian cooking followed by a drink at the legendary Pera Palace across the street. Mesrutiyet Cd .Baran. No: 187 Tepebest Tel: 212-292-1846.*

Tarihi Sultanahmet Koftecisi -*Limited menu at modest prices, but its meatballs are legendary. 12 Divanyolu Cad., Sultanahmet, Tel: 212-513-1438.*

Tike -*Serves traditional barbequed kebabs, authentic appetizers and fresh salads in a tasteful modern setting. In the fashionable Nisantasi neighborhood. Sair Nigar Sokak, No:4/A, Tel: 212-233-3540.*

Unmarked Restaurant -*Dine in the courtyard of a 16th century complex built by the famous architect Sinan. Good food; remarkable setting. Immediately across from the Suleymaniye Mosque. At the "courtyard" end of the mosque, opposite the narrow end of the mosque). Go in the courtyard and turn left. (if you enter a yard with a bunch of steps, you are in the wrong place).*

Cappadoccia

Ala Turka Restaurant -Goreme Urgup. Located on the town square of Goreme, Ala cappadoccia Turka offers good traditional Turkish food at a moderate price. The decor features local antiques and handicrafts. Tel: 384-271-2882.

Bizim Ev Restaurant -Avanos. Bizim Ev is housed in a restored home reflecting the distinctive Cappadoccian architectural style and features traditional Cappadoccian cuisine. Tel: 384-511-5525.

Canlibalik -Amasra. Innovative seafood and meat dishes. Wonderful views. Tel: 378315-2606.

Elai Restaurant -Uchisar. Elai's menu features both traditional and international cuisine. Situated on the lower slopes of Uchisar Castle, Elai offers a commanding view of Pigeon Valley and Goreme. Tel: 384-219-3181.

Ocakbasi Barbecue Restaurant Kayseri -Urgup. Simple and basic Turkish fare nothing fancy: a favorite with clients. Very reasonable. (walking distance of Esbelli Ev).
Tel: 384-341-3277.

Old Greek House -Mustafapasa (Sinassos) Urgup-Nice atmosphere in an old Greek house, serving homemade Ottoman and Cappadoccian cuisine. Dine at a table, or if you prefer, in a more traditional Turkish manner. Tel: 384-353-5141.

Somine Restaurant -Urgup. Offers an interesting menu, excellent food, moderate prices, and a lovely open-air terrace. Considered one of the most reliably good restaurants in the region. Tel: 384-341-8443.

Yemeni Restoran -Uchisar. Known for its tender lamb and regional specialties. Tel: 384-219-2364.

Ziggy's Cafe & Restaurant -Urgup. Located in an exquisitely restored stone house, Ziggy's easy ambiance, excellent food and fully-stocked bar make this intimate cafe a favorite gathering spot for Turkish and foreign expats. With three outdoor terraces and one cozy room for dining, guests can linger for hours, listening to jazz and blues and sipping cocktails or fresh fruit juices from the fully-stocked bar. Our menu includes Turkish mezes, selected pasta dishes and salads, all prepared fresh, daily -and all reflecting the regional produce and native specialties. (Within walking distance of Esbelli Ev). Tel: 384-341-7107