

ICONS & STYLES

exceptional experiences in Turkey

Winter 2016

MALDIVES A DREAM HONEYMOON ISTANBUL

A PROUD TEAM

ICONS & STYLES is approaching the year end, bright and sparkling while getting ready to complete 2015 with flying colors. It has been a year of success stories, one after another, accomplished smoothly, effectively, and efficiently by our highly exquisite team members.

One of the most glamorous celebrations of 2015, executed by the amazing I&S team, was the fairy tale wedding of a UK family at Çırağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul. The magical spirit of this destination wedding was felt like a dream by 500 international guests from different parts of the world at every moment for three days. This glorious event was carried out through six different themed parties at magnificent venues of the Palace.

Moreover, I&S with Turkish Airlines makes it possible to top a dream honeymoon in Maldives or other memorable holidays in various destinations of the world by stopping over in the magical city of Istanbul on the way back home. Turkish Airlines, world's 5th largest flight network, is now offering direct flights to Istanbul from many destinations in Asia and other parts of the world. Consequently, Istanbul, once a natural hub has become a logistic hub now.

Why not enjoy the endless beaches of Asia and its gorgeous sun first, then with the scent of the ocean, come suntanned to Istanbul and combine two dream lands in a single trip to reach the ultimate level of joy. Experience the romance of Istanbul along the Bosphorus, where Asia meets Europe and indulge in the rich flavors of the Turkish cuisine as you witness the magnificent historical sites, connecting the east to the west.

Sincerely yours,

Koray Şahmalı

President

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Let your dream honeymoon in Maldives come true and... Top it with Istanbul



Turkish Airlines, world's **5th largest** flight network, has been offering direct flights from Maldives to Istanbul since 2012. Why not enjoy the endless beaches of Maldives and its gorgeous sun first, then stop by the magical city of Istanbul on your way back home?

Perfect your unforgettable honeymoon in **Maldives** by relaxing on the tender white sand and swimming in the crystal clear water under the marvelous sun. With the scent of the ocean, come suntanned from Maldives to stop over in **Istanbul** and combine two dream lands by a single trip to reach the ultimate level of joy.



Burcu Can
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Experience the romance of Istanbul along the **Bosphorus**, where Asia meets Europe and indulge in the rich flavors of the Turkish cuisine as you witness the magnificent historical sites, connecting the east to the west.

Live entertainment, night life, concerts, colorful shops and art galleries, reflecting diverse cultures, all wait for you in Istanbul to mark the new year with invaluable moments to be remembered.

Turkish Airlines' direct flights making all this real for you



Turkish Delights by Javier Moro.



I have never seen two hotels as luxurious as those in **the tiny village of Uchisar in Cappadocia**. These two hotels rival in good taste, service, gastronomic excellence and views. From the sumptuous rooms and terraces of either Museum or the Argos Hotel - many of them lovingly-restored ancient caves - you can take in the spectacular landscape of the magical chimneys, a view that evokes Tolkien's universe, where only troglodytes, gnomes and elves are missing from the wind-eroded mountains. The light changes throughout the day, an effect that adds even more magic to the place.

Many caves are still inhabited, and the fields are still fertilized with manure collected from pigeons' lofts. This is where St. Paul took refuge in the first century; where he brought the community of Christians to safety, before they took over the hills and excavated dwellings, monasteries and over thousand churches, some of them in state of remarkable preservation. Few experiences in the world are comparable to riding in a hot air balloon above this otherworldly landscape at dawn, above the silence of the countryside and the mysterious chimneys where those Saints lived. **Cappadocia is quite a unique spectacle.**

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Javier Moro

Turkey is home to many hidden gems, many landscapes full of hospitable people and gentle Eastern manners.

One of the most beautiful trips I've made has been touring the southern **coast of Turkey on waters that are as turquoise as the Caribbean**. The schooners have the charm of old boats: the wood creaks, the brass gear gleams in the sun, the teak deck invites you to lie down and discover beaches and towns that remain unknown to mainlanders' maps. These waters would be an angler's paradise if they held as many fish as they do ruins, but fishing with dynamite and nets has depleted the resources. It's much easier to find pieces of amphorae and columns than fish. The southern coast of Turkey is like the primordial sea: the source of everything; a melting pot of civilizations, where East and West converge among cypress, herds of goats, fig trees and lavender.





“Koray Şahmalı: an educated, charming Turk who has a special ability to put subtitles on the movie –sometimes mysterious, sometimes hard to understand, but always fascinating - that is life in Turkey.”

JAVIER MORO, AUTHOR

We can't discuss Turkey without mentioning its crown jewel: **Istanbul**, straddling both Asia and Europe, a metaphor of the only city in the world that has been, consecutively, **capital of both a Christian and an Islamic empire**. First, as the Greek Byzantium and later as Constantinople, today it's a city of 16 million people that sprawls on both sides of the Bosphorus, **cosmopolitan in its essence**.

Its monumental architecture is superb; one shudders at the magnificence of the Blue Mosque and Topkapı Palace. But there are many hidden wonders in its historic streets, such as the **beautiful Byzantine mosaics in Chora Church**. And then there's the atmosphere, best enjoyed in ancient bazaars that are still functional, like the Grand Bazaar or the Spice Bazaar (don't miss **Pandeli** on the top floor, which serves the best sea bass in the world overlooking Galata bridge). In these markets, the many stalls selling perfume, antiques, mountains of Turkish delights and caviar compete for shoppers' attention.

Above the noise of heavy traffic, the soundtrack of the city is composed by the calls of the muezzin, the horns of the boats and the cries of the fishmongers. The sea is present wherever you look. Without a doubt, the best place to take in the whole of this city is the nearby islands, with their forests, parks and monuments. At dusk, they offer spectacular views of minarets and domes emerging amid the blush haze. The best operator is **Koray Şahmalı: an educated, charming Turk who has a special ability to put subtitles on the movie –sometimes mysterious, sometimes hard to understand, but always fascinating - that is life in Turkey.**

SOHO HOUSE OPENED ITS DOORS IN ISTANBUL



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Soho House has opened its newest outpost in March 2015 in Istanbul. Located in the Beyoğlu district, the creative heart of the city, Soho House Istanbul marks the group's second European club.

Soho House Istanbul is the biggest House to date inspired by the city of Istanbul and its mix of traditional and modern design. A Genoese shipowner built the old building in 1873, before it became the US embassy in 1906 and then the consulate in 1937. It is brought back to its former glory with the restoration of its **original frescoes**, Carrara marble flooring and rosewood doors, juxtaposed with early 20th century furnishings.

Soho House Istanbul houses private club spaces, a late night club, named The Embassy Club; a New York style prohibition-era bar, a hotel with furnishings and tilings from local suppliers, a **Cowshed** spa with two hamam rooms, a fully equipped gym, a ballroom for events, a screening room, and **Cecconi's**, an Italian public restaurant.

**SOHO HOUSE CONVERTS ONE OF
THE LANDMARKS.**



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Food & Music Festival on New Year's Eve at La Petite Maison Istanbul



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Enjoying fresh seasonal dishes of French, Mediterranean and Niçoise cuisine can be more exciting and fun for the food lovers in Istanbul on **New Year's Eve** at **La Petite Maison** by the performance of world renowned band "**LesTroubadours**" from the French Riviera.

La Petite Maison Istanbul, at the historical building of Maçka Palace in **Nişantaşı**, will be serving its special New Year's menu combined with its sophisticated cuisine.



UNCOVERING HIDDEN LAYERS OF CAPPADOCIA: THE HOUSE HOTEL CAPPADOCIA



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The House Hotel Group, having opened five award-winning properties in Istanbul, launches its first hotel outside Istanbul, set in Turkey's most iconic landscape: **Cappadocia**.

The House Hotel Cappadocia is located in the town of Ortahisar near Göreme and Ürgüp in the middle of ancient caves and a towering volcanic rock formation with local residents for a millennia. The 29 rooms incorporate **ancient cave dwellings** and restored houses with **fireplaces**, storage alcoves, even a buried wine press and a fermentation vat. Most rooms feature **frescoes** and crown moldings evoking Cappadocia's heritage.

"Fresko Lokanta" serving contemporary Turkish cuisine with its stone oven, a **relaxing spa** with a **Turkish Hamam**, a sauna, steam rooms and four treatment rooms and a lofty chapel, hosting weddings, concerts and workshops will all be in action as of 2016.

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