

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

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Turin

Italy's delightful
lesser-known city





ISTANBUL THE ART OF THE MATTER

WHERE TO STAY

BEST HOTELS FOR A

WATERFRONT LOCATION

★ As part of her student project, the architect daughter of the owners of what is now **Sumahan on the Water** (www.sumahan.com; doubles from €195) produced designs to convert a former raki distillery into a 20-room hotel, which so impressed her family they had it built. The result is one of the most delightful hotels in Istanbul: contemporary in style (most rooms have wood-burning stoves or open fires), comfortable (bar the synthetic pillows and duvets) and very charmingly run. Located on the Asian side, in the village of Çengelköy, it has stupendous views from every room across the Bosphorus, as far as Sultanahmet (binoculars are provided). The downside is that it's a long trek into town, although, weather permitting, the hotel operates a boat to the Kabatas quay on the European side that leaves at 9.30am and 10.30am, returning at 6.30pm.

★ If you to stay on the water, but on the European side, there are two options: the justly venerated **Çırağan Palace Kempinski** (www.kempinski.com; doubles from

www.kempinski.com; doubles from €352), is a fabulous ornate Ottoman palace (guest rooms are in an unlovely annex) with a 33-metre Bosphorus-facing swimming pool. A little further west along the Bosphorus in Besiktas, **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus** (www.fourseasons.com/bosphorus; doubles from €480) is an opulent 170-room resort hotel set in a former 19th-century palace.

BEST BOUTIQUE HOTELS

★ In the business district of Levent, **The Istanbul Edition** (www.editionhotels.com; doubles from €375) is impeccably designed and almost self-consciously fashionable, and with just 78 rooms feels like a boutique. You'd never guess it was part of the JW Marriott group.

★ The greatest concentration of big-brand hotels (the Park Hyatt, various Hiltons) is to be found in the patrician, far from lively Nişantaşı area, among them the **Bentley Hotel** (www.bentley-hotel.com; doubles from €240), designed by the Milanese architect Piero Lissoni. Ask for a corner room on the sixth floor or above, and you should be able to see the Bosphorus.

★ For something yet smaller and funkier, the **Witt Istanbul Hotel** ➤