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Where to stay



Witt Istanbul Suites

The style is modernist, from the laser-cut floral motifs to the plywood Magnolia pendant lights

► designers of the city's fashionable House Café chain, to create the interiors. From the laser-cut floral motif in the black-marble reception to the plywood Magnolia lights, Autoban's signature modernist style is imprinted on the 17 open-plan suites. Well-stocked kitchenettes, grey marble bathrooms designed by Ross Lovegrove, boxy leather sofas and Bose iPod docks create a luxury loft vibe. Fabulous beds cocooned by curved leather headboards are designed for lie-ins (you can order breakfast in bed at no extra charge). Thoughtful staff strike the right balance between familiarity and courtesy. A short walk from Istanbul Modern museum and the bars of Beyoğlu, Witt Suites is a hit with designers, photographers, the fashion crowd and international artists showing at nearby galleries.

ROOM TO BOOK No 52, a corner suite, has stunning views across the Bosphorus to Topkapı and Hagia Sophia.

PRICE Doubles from €135
Defterdar Yokusu No 26, Cihangir (00 90 212 393 7900; www.wittistanbul.com)

TOMTOM SUITES

Tucked away in a warren of alleyways off Istiklal Avenue, Beyoğlu's main pedestrian drag, this elegant newcomer is housed in a former convent. Although the 19th-century exterior has been respectfully restored, the interiors are modern and the nuns have been replaced with savvy CEOs and European diplomats from the surrounding consulates. A glass lift glides between the 20 enormous suites (even the smallest are huge by average hotel standards). The look is clean and clutter-free, a soothing symphony of taupe and beige.

Bespoke oak furniture and solid-wood floors are offset by vibrant paintings, ceramics and monochrome rugs. The Carrara marble bathrooms have underfloor heating, custom-made bathrobes and L'Occitane treats. Guests are spoiled with fresh fruit and flowers daily, free WiFi and a cosy library stocked with guide books, CDs and films. The ground-floor Bistro serves international standards in rather bland surroundings, but the rooftop Teras bar has show-stopping views across the jumble of rooftops to the minarets of Sultanahmet (unforgettable at sunset). Just moments from the hipster hang-outs clustered around the Galata Tower and Tünel, this classy retreat is peaceful, undisturbed by traffic.

ROOM TO BOOK Splash out on the top-floor Executive Suite, the only room with a private terrace and a glass-walled Jacuzzi.

PRICE Doubles from €160
18 Tomtom Kaptan Sokak, Boğazkesen Caddesi, Beyoğlu (00 90 212 292 4949; www.tomtomsuites.com)

PARK HYATT ISTANBUL

Maçka Palas was designed in 1922 as a residence for the neighbouring Italian embassy and is modelled on a Milan palazzo. Before construction was complete, Ankara became the capital of Turkey, and the embassies moved there, so the Art Deco building



Tomtom Suites



The Terrace bar at Park Hyatt Istanbul

was converted into exclusive apartments. After an extreme makeover by New Yorker Randy Gerner, the building was reborn as the Park Hyatt Istanbul in November last year. Gerner made his name creating sleek HQs for investment banks and this 90-room hotel shares that no-expense-spared aesthetic, from the rooftop Presidential Suite (with private access via the original lift) to the glamorous basement spa (with heated massage beds by Armani Casa). The soaring, sky-lit lobby with its circular Wine Lounge is dazzling. Deluxe rooms with padded-leather headboards, shimmering drapes and polished limestone and walnut bathrooms are generously proportioned – even the mini-bar measures are XL. Exclusive amenities extend to the Blaise Mautin toiletries, soundtrack composed by Turkish DJ Mercan Dede, and black-and-white prints by Magnum photographer Ara Güler. Power lunches take place in the macho The Prime steakhouse or on the pool terrace wedged between the upmarket shopping malls of Nişantaşı. The Italian connection lives on: there are Armani and Gucci boutiques at street level. **ROOM TO BOOK** The 60-metre Spa King rooms have their own hammams and steam rooms. **PRICE** Doubles from €250
4 Bronz Sokak, Tesvikiye (00 90 212 315 1234; www.istanbul.park.hyatt.com)