



# OF CULTURE, CRAFT AND CUISINE

**TURKEY** is the place to be if you want that perfect experience of the East and the West. Soak in the traditions, enjoy the food, and relax by the water. By Shradha Kamdar



I might sound a bit odd to say that Turkey is, perhaps, a less vibrant sight than the East and the West, but it was only when I was travelling inside the Hagia Sophia, navigating the halls of the Spice Bazaar in Istanbul, and working my way through one of the most extraordinary meals and sipping a glass of wine in a food-and-wine restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus that I really grasped the

essence of that state. A place where culture meets class, this is a country that's not thousands of miles but mere hours away.

It is a country so traditional, with so many people who are always ready to greet you with a smile. And food you. Connection: Overjoyed and so, while I experienced the fast pace of Istanbul and the food-and-wine culture of capital city Ankara, the aspect that stood with me was how

helpful the country's people are — always willing to help out the travellers on their plumes to bridge the language gap.

## **Istanbul Calling**

Istanbul has an energy all its own, and the vibe it gives off invites you to relax, explore, but also have a lot of fun. It would be an understatement to say that any trip to Turkey would be incomplete without a visit to the Hagia