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Sumahan on the Water

ÇENGELKÖY, TURKEY

To convert a 19th-century Istanbul distillery into a boutique hotel, owner-architects Mark and Nedret Butler looked to the Bosphorus for inspiration. At their 18-room Sumahan on the Water, the most compelling element is the view of palaces, skyscrapers, Hagia Sophia, and, of course, that sparkling strait. European starlets keep a low profile in the residential-style lobby, with its steel crossbeams, high ceilings, and fireplace. Sea and sky, framed by picture windows, blend into the blues and grays of the guest suites. Aboard the hotel's yacht, *Sumahan I*, you can float along the Bosphorus to the sound of the evening call to prayers.

51 Kuleli Caddesi, Çengelköy, Turkey; 90-216/422-8000;
www.sumahan.com; doubles from \$5

The Sumahan's
indoor-outdoor dining
room, overlooking
the Bosphorus.