



BON STAGE

Celebration of Turkish tastes and culture with a book about food

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Expats Ansel Mullins and Yigal Schleifer, who run the food blog Istanbul Eats, publish a book compiling 88 of the city's best undiscovered eateries. The book features small, family-run establishments and street-food stands that would otherwise be known only by locals.

The treasure map avid eaters have been waiting for is here: 88 reviews of the best undiscovered Istanbul eateries by the popular food blog Istanbul Eats have been published in a new book.

Written by blog creators Ansel Mullins and Yigal Schleifer and published by Boyut Yayınları, "Istanbul Eats: Exploring the Culinary Backstreets of Istanbul" features small, family-run establishments and street-food stands that do not have the marketing budget or logo-ed dishware of chain restaurants, but serve extremely tasty food. Mullins and Schleifer, whose eight years of combined eating experience in Turkey helped them map out what they believe are the "culinary backstreets of Istanbul," say the food tips they had been sending each other as two food lovers living in Istanbul snowballed first into the blog they have been running for a year and a half, and now into the new book.

The authors say they like to think of the book as more than just a restaurant guide because of the unique qualities of the places they have featured. According to Mullins, "it is a celebration of Turkish culture that is right in line with the bigger cultural trend that is about going back to the roots." The making of the book has been an interesting process for the authors, who said some restaurant owners got a little suspicious when they first approached them to say they would be featuring their establishments in the book. "They thought we were asking for money," Mullins said. "When we explained to them what we were trying to do and told them we loved what they were doing, they were extremely flattered."