



Hotel Review: Vault Karakoy in Istanbul

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By SETH SHERWOOD MAY 5, 2015



The Room

A box of chocolates tied with a golden bow welcomed me to my room, a fourth-floor Classic King. Lined by tall windows overlooking Sultanahmet, the space gave off a subdued, sophisticated vibe with its autumnal tones and natural materials: ash gray walls, sage green fabrics, walnut-stained wood floor, paneled white doors (leading to a full closet). A flat-screen television, an iPod station, free Wi-Fi and bedside lighting controls fulfill technological needs, while an espresso maker and minibar (stocked with products like Italian biscotti and a half bottle of German sparkling wine) satisfy corporeal cravings, for a price.



Rates

Doubles start at 169 euros in low season (\$180 at \$1.07 to the euro), 239 euros in high.

Basics

Bankalar Caddesi, a narrow street lined with stone buildings and long known as a financial hub, is now building impressive holdings in style as well. Three years ago the [Gradiva Hotel](#) arrived, bustling with a jazz club and rooftop bar. Last year Vault Karakoy, the House Hotel, further upped the ante. In a former 19th-century Ottoman-era bank, the 63-room hotel was renovated at a cost of more than \$40 million by Han Tumertekin, a winner of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. It brims with period details and has an elegant interior design by Sinan Kafadar, who has worked on some of [Turkey's](#) top hotels.

Location

Sultanahmet, the neighborhood that houses the city's best known historical structures, like Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque, is just across the Golden Horn waterway and easily accessible by tram. Contemporary