



*Turkish delight: Owner Coskun
"Josh" Gokalp, in Istanbul
Grille's new Shadyside location.*

Heather Mull

Best way to feel like you're supping in Constantinople ... or whatever it's called nowadays

Istanbul Grille

5501 Centre Ave., Shadyside. 412-325-3347

Turkish fare is hard to come by in Pittsburgh -- so hard, in fact, that even our exhaustive "best of" readers ballot doesn't include the category. Yet just as Turkey itself sits at the crossroads of Asia, Europe and the Middle East, so does the Istanbul Grille offer food to accommodate almost every taste. (Which is a good thing, given the small number of Turks living in Pittsburgh.) The menu is subject to frequent change -- and sometimes the most mouth-watering items on it are unavailable. But you can always find something vegetarian -- like zucchini pancakes -- alongside such delicacies as ground lamb. The pistachio pudding is highly recommended as well. The interior -- furnished with hand-painted mirrors and other grace notes -- suggests Asia Minor without clubbing you over the head with Orientalist clichés. The Grille recently moved its dining room from next door to Chief's bar in North Oakland, but its new location, near Shadyside Hospital, deserves to be a crossroads in its own right.