

## **Press article about Kalkan from The Guardian – 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2006**

*“Kalkan is like the Italian Riviera minus the poseurs - instead of sandy beaches, there are beach clubs strung along the bay with sun beds perched atop stone platforms that jut out over the sea. A few miles outside town is Patara beach, a spectacular 18km stretch of golden sand consistently voted one of the best beaches in the world. I lasted about an hour and a half, lying there on the scorching sand, until dizzy with the heat and half-blinded by suntan lotion, I conceded defeat. The beach club at Villa Mahal in Kalkan, a sleek, modern hotel handily located just below our villa, was infinitely more comfortable: a sand-free zone where cheerful waiters ply you with cold drinks. Better still was our private pad. Slipping into the pool after frying at Patara was one of the most delicious moments of the entire holiday.*

*Leaving the villa at all was a wrench, but after three nights of cooking sea bass and bream on our own barbecue, it was time to venture out. Kalkan is touristy but the winding bougainvillea-filled streets and traditional Ottoman-style houses have enough villagey charm to compensate. At night, it's prettier still - candle-lit roof-terrace restaurants look out across the glowing white dome of the mosque and the tiny harbour full of gulets. The one modern bar was packed with teenagers whose parents were lounging on cushions in tea houses trying to recapture their youth by smoking hookahs, or snapping up fake Mulberry bags in shops that stay open til midnight.*

*Kalkan itself may be a little oasis of sophistication but you don't have to go far to find traditional Turkey. We drove up into the hills to Islamlar for breakfast - tomatoes and olives, bread and honey and a sizzling pan of eggs and cheese - at Mamut's place, a shady restaurant built above a trout stream. From there - after a spectacularly bad 33-point turn in front of half the village - we headed further inland across a valley floor covered in orchards, in search of the fabled "green lake" in the mountains.”*