



ISTANBUL, TURKEY

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE –
AND A CELEBRATED COMEBACK.

It's been a rough few years for this continent-straddling Turkish city, but Istanbul tourism is back and embracing the future. "Istanbul is bristling with new buildings, and its vibrant and affluent center is full of beautiful people," says Peter Lloyd, an Atlanta-based Virtuoso advisor. Istanbul's European side, west of the Bosphorus, showcases the city's past and present, from the seventeenth-century Blue Mosque to a modern-art installation inside the ancient Theodosius Cistern, and Bomontiada, a former beer factory turned art gallery and entertainment complex in Bomonti. It's easier to arrive here than ever before: the new Istanbul Airport, which opened its first section late last year, will become one of the world's busiest, and later this year an expanded cruise terminal is set to debut in Karaköy. Cruise ships are returning to the city after a three-year hiatus, including **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** 700-passenger *Seven Seas Voyager*, on an 11-day Athens-to-Barcelona sailing. *Departure: October 16; from \$9,799.* – Lisa Morrow

↓
Istanbul's Sultan Ahmed Mosque, known as the Blue Mosque for the hue of its interior tiles.