The Turkish Cultural Foundation’s Culinary Arts Center – YESAM (Yemek Sanatları Merkezi) in Istanbul is pleased to present a cultural journey to the heart of the rose.

The rose holds a unique place in Turkish history and art and has been a symbol of elegance, sanctity and love, and the subject of poems, hymns and enchanted tales. In addition, roses are cherished in Turkey for their fragrance, healing and cosmetic properties and their delicate taste. They are used in producing rose oil and rose water, as well as in confectionary, including *lokum* - Turkish delight.

Over the centuries, Isparta has become a center of rose oil and rose water production in Anatolia. This process began with Müftüzade Ismail Efendi, an Ottoman official stationed in Kızanlık (in today’s Bulgaria) in the late 19th century, who observed the cultivation of roses and rose oil production in the strictly guarded “Rose Valley” of the region. Ismail Efendi brought back a rose cutting to Isparta, planted it in his own garden and began growing roses. He later used a still to produce the first rose oil in Isparta in 1892. He became known by the cognomen “Gülcişi” (rose grower). Ismail Efendi’s love of roses quickly spread, turning Isparta into the rose capital of Turkey.

YESAM invites you on a special cultural and culinary adventure to witness the rose harvest in Isparta and discover the beauty, fragrance and taste of the rose. The tour will be guided by journalist and food culture researcher Aylin Öney Tan, who has done an extensive study on the culinary culture of the Antique city of Sagalassos and, history and uses of rose within Ottoman and Turkish culinary culture.
TOUR PROGRAM

29 May 2015 Friday YB3407 12:10 Sabiha Gökçen - Antalya

31 May 2015 Sunday YB3408 17:10 Antalya - Sabiha Gökçen

Price: 1.250 TL*

The tour is limited to 25 participants; Misal Turizm-A 7886 reserves the right to cancel the tour and make a full refund, in the case of not reaching a minimum number of participants.

Services included:

- 2 Nights accommodation in a 5* Hotel
- 2 Breakfast
- 2 Dinner
- 1 Lunch
- Professional Guidance
- Mandatory travel insurance
- All transfers with a midibus

*The price is for per person in a double occupancy room.

Our flight will be on a scheduled Borajet flight, Turkey’s first and only regional intercity aviation service.

For more information and reservations please call or e-mail

444 4 287
bilgi@yemeksanatlari.org
29 May Friday, 2015

10:30 : Metting at Sabiha Gökçen Airport, Borajet counter for check-in.


15:30 – 19:00 : Visit to Antique town of Sagalassos.

Sagalassos is an archaeological site in southwestern Turkey, about 100 km north of Antalya (ancient Attaleia), and 30 km from Burdur and Isparta. The ancient ruins of Sagalassos are 7 km from Ağlasun in the province of Burdur, on Mount Akdağ, in the Western Taurus mountains range, at an altitude of 1450–1700 metres. In Roman Imperial times, the town was known as the 'first city of Pisidia', a region in the western Taurus mountains, currently known as the Turkish Lakes Region. Already during the Hellenistic period, it had been one of the major Pisidian towns.


20.30 : Dinner at Kebabçı Kadir, since1851, it is the oldest restaurant of Isparta.

30 May Saturday, 2015

07:00 : Depart from hotel.

Please make sure to pick up some hot tea and warm savoury pastries at the lobby on your way out to the bus. We will be departing bright and early for our visit to the rose gardens.

08:30-09:45 : Arrival at the rose gardens belonging to “Sebat” a boutique rose producer, located at the town of Senir.

In the early hours of the day, when the fragrance of the roses are at their peak, we will start our day and our rose harvesting trip organized by The Culinary Arts Center (http://www.yemeksanatlari.org/en/) , established by the Turkish Cultural Foundation, (http://www.turkishculturalfoundation.org) dedicated to support, preserve and promote Turkish culture and heritage worldwide.

10:00-11:00 : Arrival at the factory and breakfast.

11:00-13:30 : Visit to the “Sebat” factory, learning about traditional and new technology rose oil extraction techniques, distillation and absorption methods.

Eglantine Rosa Damascena, is a new generation rose oil producer with high quality and high volume production capacities.

14:30-15:30 : Lunch overlooking the beautiful Eğridir Lake and enjoying the local specialties including the infamous stuffed carp fish.

16:00 – 18:00 : Visit the to Eğridir Lake and surrounding beauties.
During our visit we will stroll around the lake and visit some of the local structures such as Hızırbey Mosque, Dündar Bey Madrasah, Yeşil Island and Can Island.

18:00 : Depart for **Sagalassos Lodge Hotel** for the evening.

20:00 : A dinner feast at the hotel, prepared from the local and traditional dishes.

**31 May Sunday, 2015**

07:00 – 8:30 : Breakfast at the hotel.

**NAR Gourmet** ([http://www.nargourmet.com](http://www.nargourmet.com)), offers the natural and regional products of Anatolia, that reflects our culinary culture in the most natural and healthy way. Each year around the rose harvesting period, NAR Gourmet prepares rose jams using the finest Isparta rose petals, traditional methods and copper pots.

09:00 : Depart from hotel and check-out.

10:00 – 11:30 : Visit to islamköy Rose oil factories owned by **Gülbirlik Coop.** and watching rose water distillation.

**Gülbirlik Coop.** was founded in 1954, as a combination of 9 founding cooperatives. One of the largest producers of rose products, Gülbirlik processes 320 tons of rose petals to produce world standard rose oil and rose water each day.

Gülbirlik Coop founded İslamköy rose oil factory in 1958, followed by other rose oil factories in 1976. They changed the course of the rose oil production by establishing modern methods and made Isparta the center of rose oil production of Turkey. There are a total of 5 large and 15 small rose oil factories owned privately and by Gülbirlik Coop.

In 1998 Gülbirlik started using rose in cosmetics and food products. They opened stores in 2003 under the brands **Rosense** and **Sweet Rose** and started selling their products within Turkey and also in foreign markets.

12:30 – 14:00 : Arrival at Güneykent and visit to the old rose oil factory. Offering of tea.

14:00 : Depart for Antalya Airport for our Borajet flight to Istanbul.

17:10 : Departure time for our Istanbul flight.