

# The Topkapı Restaurant Re-Opened Its Door In Ottawa



YALÇIN DİKER

The first Turkish Restaurant in Ottawa, *The Topkapı*, was opened in 1974 at Kent and Gloucester streets by **Raif Erdoğan**. Raif had arrived in Canada in 1972 with a large, silver model of *Döner Kebab* machine, and a dream. He eventually had his machine re-wired to meet the electrical requirements of Canada, and opened his restaurant.

By 1977, he had a complete Turkish Menu and on Thursday and Sundays, he threw his cherished *Döner Kebab* machine into gear and produced one of Turkey's most famous dishes, *Döner Kebab*.

Some 32 years later, **Raif's** son **Nail**, buys an existing restaurant on Preston Street (Little Italy) and renames it the *Topkapı*, realizing his own dreams, as well as reviving his father's memories. **Nail** was born in Turkey and arrived in Canada in October 1977 when he was only 15 years old.

He worked with his dad in the family restaurant first as a dishwasher, a bus-boy, and then as a waiter after having learned enough English. His dad also taught him everything there is to know to become a good Chef.

In 1980, **Raif** opened the *Top-*

*kapı Take-Out Restaurant* in the 240 Sparks Street Mall. **Nail** was the Chef and managed the day-to-day operations until his dad sold it in 1983. His dad then moved the business to a new location on Metcalfe Street. **Nail** worked in the kitchen until the restaurant was sold in 1988.

In the meantime, **Nail** met his wife **Chantal** in 1982. She started working part-time as a waitress to help the family business until it was sold in 1988. She is therefore very familiar with the restaurant business.

**Nail** and **Chantal** are now the proud owners of revived *Topkapı Restaurant* now located on Preston Street.

The many beautiful and tasty dishes are prepared by **Oktay Karagöz**, a certified Chef who graduated from a culinary school in Mengen (Turkey). Before coming to Canada, he was emplo-

yed by the renowned *Çırağan Palace Hotel* in Istanbul since 1991.

Guest at the *Topkapı Turkish Restaurant* can experience the Turkish hospitality in an elegant and quiet décor, and can choose from a large selection of dishes made of beef, lamb, chicken or fish. Vegetarian dishes and a children's menu are also available.

Additionally, one must also try one of their deserts, perhaps accompanied by a Turkish tea or coffee, to complement their meal. The experience of eating at the *Topkapı Turkish Restaurant* is guaranteed to be delightful. Reservations are suggested.

**Topkapı Turkish Restaurant**  
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*Nail and Chantal are in their Topkapı Turkish Restaurant and before Mr. Raif's portrait.*

## OPEN LETTER

### The Current And The Armenian issue

Vince Carlin,  
CBC Ombudsman

Dear Mr. Carlin,

I am not satisfied with the response I received on June 8, 2009 from Pam Bertrand, Executive Producer of *The Current*. I would like you to review the matter.

I am aware that you have been receiving many letters from members of the Turkish Canadian community, expressing their dissatisfaction, so I will attempt to not repeat what is covered in those letters.

My main concern and what I would like you to review is CBC's lack of objectivity and apparent fascination with the so-called Armenian "genocide." I do not understand why CBC seems to be only interested in exploring and reporting on the Armenian side's stories on this issue. What about the Turkish side? Why doesn't CBC invite Turkish or non-Turkish and non-Armenian historians, authors and scholars who believe that the tragic events of 1915 in Eastern Anatolia cannot be characterized as "genocide"? Why doesn't Canada's public broadcaster express some level of care or concern about the Turkish victims of Armenian atrocities? What about their stories?

The issue is in fact very complicated and I would encourage you to research the topic in order to better understand the underlying context. I fear that without this type of understanding, Canada's public broadcaster runs the risk of becoming a socio-political tool of the Armenian lobby.

Although I was pleased to receive a response from CBC regarding Turkish-Canadians' criticism of *The Current*, I was surprised and disappointed at Ms. Pam Bertrand's letter. Ms. Bertrand's "one answer fits all" response did very little to reassure me of "the continuing integrity of" the program and underestimated Turkish Canadians' intelligence. She writes:

*Please see page 31.*



Ottava'da Türk Mutfağı denince akla Topkapı Restaurant gelir!

Sıcak, güler yüzlü ve dost bir ortamda, Türk ağız tadına varmak için Chantal, Nail, Ceylan ve deneyimli bir ekip size hizmet etmekten kıvanç duyar!...

Lütfen yer ayırtmak için arayınız:  
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