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## Suada Club

Situated on Galatasaray Island on the Bosphorus, Suada is one of unique venues in Istanbul. With an Olympic sized swimming pool, bars, several upscale restaurants and a special party area, this extensive entertainment and recreation complex is an ideal venue.

The island at the Kurucemesme district of Bosphorus, which is composed of several big stone blocks 165 meter away from the shore ,was given as a present to the Serkis Kalfa, the chief architect of the palace in 1872 by Sultan Abdulaziz,the ruler of the Ottoman Empire. Having built a three story pavilion in this island, Serkis Kalfa moved here.

The worldwide famous painter Ayvazovski, invited by the Sultan Abdul-Aziz, had been a guest to Serkis Kalfa at the Kurucemesme Island in 1874 and was introduced to the sultan. Ayvazovski painted the pictures of Dolmabahce Palace ordered to be drawn by the sultan Abdul-Aziz at this island. The island was used as coal storage after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

This island was called as "the island of Serkis Bey" up to the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and perceived as "a corner of heaven" of the time. Serkis Kalfa (1835-1899), who continued to render service as the chief architect of the palace subsequent to the death of Sultan Abdul-Aziz and during the reign of 2<sup>nd</sup> Abdulhamit, lived at this island until his death The island was bought by Galatasaray Sports Club in 1957 and it was turned into a place of social facilities.

