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# Abaton Island Resort & Spa

Hersonissos, Crete, Greece



Rooms from **£206** per night

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**9/10**  
Telegraph expert rating

"No expense has been spared in creating this sleek and classy Cycladic-style resort close to Hersonissos. Facilities include a strip of sandy beach, several large pools, five restaurants serving carefully prepared Greek and international fare, and a cosy Elemis spa."

## Telegraph Review



By Heidi Fuller-Love, TRAVEL WRITER

### 8/10 Location

It's easy to find this resort overlooking a rocky coastline 12 miles (19km) from Heraklion international airport and a short walk from the lively resort of Hersonissos, which has plenty of shops and nightlife options.



### 9/10 Style & character

The style is elegantly minimalist: low white buildings, reflected in lagoon-like water features and pools, tumble down a slope to the sea, and huge glass walls in public areas give endless sea vistas. Entering the reception is like stepping into a boat.

Rocking chairs scattered around the property invite repose, and lighting is used to create ambiance: a forest of light bulbs dangles above comfortable sofas in reception, and the main bar glows with coloured lights. The overall effect is laid-back chic, although if you wear shorts and a T-shirt you might feel underdressed.



### 9/10 Service & facilities

Immaculately dressed staff (slightly unnerving when you arrive hot and dusty), provide friendly, professional service, whisking you through check-in with fresh juice and canapés. There are two outdoor public pools: a vast infinity pool with daybeds and wet beds, and a smaller pool for children. There is also a heated indoor spa pool.

The Elemis spa is a cosy space with steam room, sauna, beauty salon and gym. Therapist Raina's expert hands work wonders with Elemis' range of facials (the collagen treatment really leaves skin glowing). Signature treatments include the agreeably vigorous hot stone massage. A sandy cove has plenty of sun beds, although sea access, dotted with rocks, can be difficult.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Fitness centre
- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Sauna
- ✔ Steam room/hammam
- ✔ Wi-Fi
- ✔ Beach
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Pool
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Spa
- ✔ Tennis court

### 9/10 Rooms

There are 152 rooms in 14 categories: 71 have private and stunningly elegant, heated marble seawater pools of varying sizes, but all big enough to swim a few strokes. All rooms have balconies or terraces, and most have sea views. Décor is gleaming white, with some nice decorative touches such as huge carved headboards from India and driftwood sculptures.

There is a sense that no expense has been spared: king-size beds have huge plump mattresses; bathrooms are stocked with Elemis products; bathrobes are thick and snugly, and furniture solid and well-upholstered – and that includes outdoors: "Guests spend six hours every day on sun beds, so they must be good quality," says George, the hotel's owner.

Spacious Thalassa Relax Seafront rooms are best for couples on a budget. If money is no object pick a Loft Luxury Seafront room with mezzanine bedroom, outdoor whirlpool and private pool.

### 8/10 Food & drink

The resort has five restaurants. Buffet breakfast served in the main restaurant (with panoramic sea views) is copious: a good range of hot and cold choices, including a hot stand for waffles and crêpes, and healthy options such as cereals, dried fruit, yoghurt and nuts.

"Wow" Sushi & Steak serves carefully prepared meat and seafood options. Try the pork cooked in a charcoal oven, served with truffle-oil-anointed potatoes and wasabi peas. Elemes serves Cretan specialities (the Melitzana Rethymnon - aubergine stuffed with Mithyza soft cheese and Apaki pork - is excellent). As its name suggests, Bony Fish down by the beach is the resorts seafood restaurant, whilst C'est La Vie pool bar serves a good range of international snacks.

### 8/10 Value for money

Double rooms from €233 (£206) in low season; and from €458 (£404) in high season. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

#### Access for guests with disabilities?

All rooms are adapted for guests with disabilities and there are ramps, and lifts throughout the property.

#### Family-friendly?

Yes. Children have a designated pool, but there's no kids' club.

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abaton.gr



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