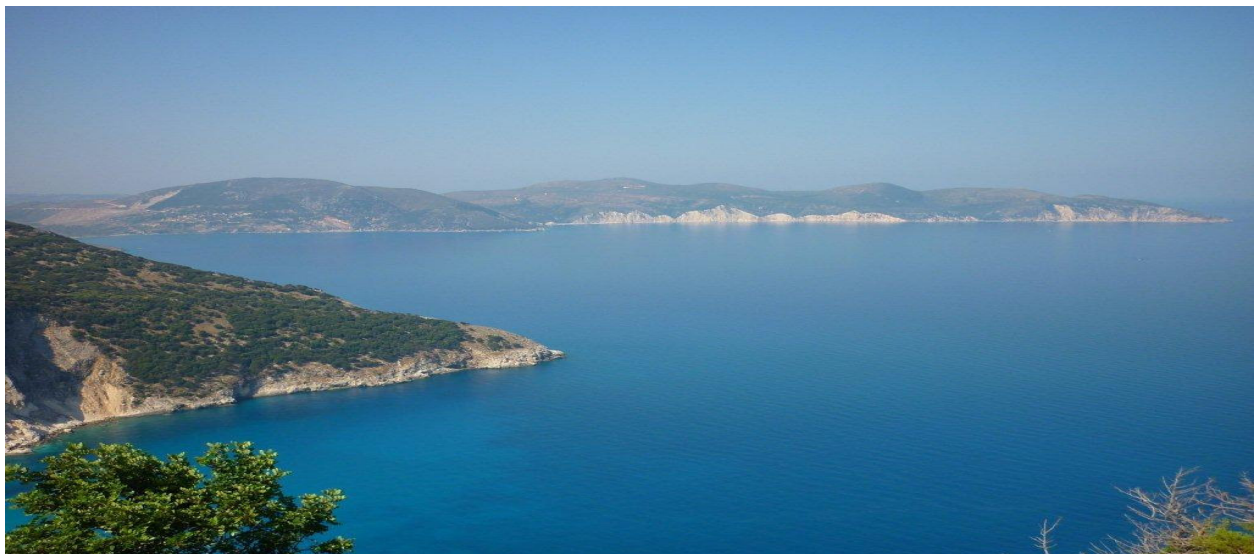


Emelisse Art Hotel – Cephalonia – August 2010

“congratulations” I said to the owner of the Emelisse Art Hotel in Cephalonia. “You have a wonderful hotel”. His immediate response was “No, I am lucky to have great staff and a most beautiful location” Boy, was he right, the Emelisse Hotel sits on a headland just outside of Fiscardo with views of Lefkas, Ithaca and the sea. He also has a happy team of people who really want to look after you.

However no hotel can be just about the view and the people it has to offer something solid to live in and the Emelisse do this with an immense amount of style and comfort.



The Emelisse Art hotel has been on my holiday radar for a couple of years now as its reputation grew amongst the trade and lifestyle travel magazines. All I needed was the right opportunity to take my family away on holiday to Cephalonia. That opportunity came when I rented a yacht for a week to sail around the Ionian Islands (give me a call if you want to know more) and I was looking for a base for my second week on dry land. Mind you this is debatable because whether you are

in one of the two restaurants, the bar, the walk from the room and the tennis court always have a view of the sea.

Ten years ago the hotel was an unfinished apartment complex when the Christopoulous family transferred a dull group of rooms into a stylish hotel worthy of competing with some of the best holiday hotels in Europe.

All the common rooms are open to the elements creating a relaxed environment to move about in. The hotel has a tennis court, an Elemise Spa, a gym, two swimming pools and two restaurants which is typical of any top European hotel. However what sets the Emelisse apart from is the way the pool areas and the restaurants provide you with seating for one of nature's most wonderful views.



The pool side terrace combines traditional sun beds with colourful sofas whilst at night this area is lit by soft lights and candlelight transferring the hotel into a calm and romantic hideaway. The fire pit in summer heat was strange but it worked!



What also worked was the walk down to the rocks for a refreshing dip in the sea or a rock jump. A beach is five minutes' walk away, although it is not sand, the pebble beach was clean and comfortable.

As for food, the hotels chefs include a grandmother preparing home cooked traditional Greek dishes using lots of local produce, whilst the baked on the premises cakes and breakfast pastries are truly fantastic. Fish was big on the menu; themed night gave variety and not one sign of a buffet. I also found the cost to be reasonable, no over inflated prices just good food served at prices you are used to

Regarding accommodation the standard rooms are not overlarge but very comfortable and I would, if the budget allowed, upgrade to a junior suite. These offer much more space to relax in and whatever room you book the bathroom is

the same. No bath but a large walk in shower area and for Greece, paper flushing toilets!!

The current holiday trend is for clients to seek privacy when on holiday, almost villa like, but keep the facilities and convenience of a hotel and the Emelisse Art can provide this. Some of the accommodation blocks of 4/5 rooms have small shared private pool areas which are much quieter than the main pool area and I booked a junior suite with shared pool. In a week I only shared this area twice which may have been lucky but this option can provide you with the solitude you may want at some times of the day. However what those groups of accommodation provide is the opportunity to book all 4/5 rooms for your extended family, for two families, as a group of friends and then what you have complete privacy as you would in a villa but with the facilities of a hotel. You must book early for this option so I can guarantee the best rooms for you.



This hotel works not because of its opulence but because you get what you want from a holiday, home comfort. Take the open air cinema for example where every night you can request a favourite film then lay under the stars with a beer.

I also have to add the hotel has its own chapel and if you or you know somebody that wants to get married overseas then the Emelisse has to be on your list. Outside guests are welcome and private terraces are made available to you

As I look back over the contents of this report I do not think I have done the Emelisse Art Hotel justice. My family and I loved this holiday. The hotel was soft, gentle, stylish and friendly. It put you at ease with yourself, it made you relax, it made you play cards with your kids. It made you not to want to go out of the hotel.

Therefore, I didn't go out of the hotel that often but when I did I liked Cephalonia. The beach at Myrtos and the coastal village of Assos look spectacular. Fiscardo is a bustling harbour village. It is much more cosmopolitan than most of the harbours I had visited on my sailing trip but its colourful Venetian styled houses and waterside restaurants gave you the option of a different night out. The hotel provides courtesy transfers to town throughout the day.

Also from Fiscardo the fun thing to do is to rent a boat. They are small but capable of taking up to 6 people around the bays and beaches around Fiscardo. In fact this is a must, it is not until you get on the sea do you realise how beautiful the Ionian Islands are and how crystal clear the water is.

That is all I want to say now, what I want you to do is call me. My first hand experience of the Emelisse Art and your thoughts will help you decide if this is the right hotel for you. However If like me and you do book the Emelisse Art you will be in for a great experience.

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