

A Cretan gem

'Hanging' over the old harbour of the city of Heraklion, Lato Boutique Hotel offers guests panoramic views to the Venetian Fortress and the endless blue of the Cretan Sea. No surprise then that the hotel is praised to the high heavens on online rating sites for its beautiful and convenient location, but there is much more to Lato than that.



The Lato hotel was founded by Mr. Michalis Karatarakis, a professor of chemistry who is very well-respected in the local Cretan community and beyond. In 1978, he decided to convert a private school into a hotel, naming it after the ancient Greek goddess 'Leto' (or Lato in the Doric form) mother of Appollon and Artemis. His dream for the hotel was to offer a blend of the famous Cretan hospitality and the highest European standards, which he managed to achieve with the support of his wife, Mrs. Evaggelia Karataraki. Lato to this day remains a family business: the current generation is represented by the founders' son, Mr. Lefteris Karatarakis. He was responsible for Lato's recent, major refurbishment, and adheres to his father's vision: he wants his guests to not only fully enjoy the modern structures and services of the hotel, but also to experience, taste, and learn

about the beauty of Crete, creating a 'home-away-from-home' feel for his guests in a warm, family atmosphere.

The geographical location of Lato Boutique Hotel is rather exquisite and unique. Located in one of the most beautiful and serene neighbourhoods in the centre of the old city of Heraklion, on its feet lies the central market and beats the heart of the city's social life. This makes the hotel ideal for guests who wish to use Lato as a 'base' to explore the island. As it is quite near the airport and ferry terminal, Lato additionally is frequently enjoyed as a stop-over by guests who have just arrived or who are preparing to leave the island, and by business guests who wish make use of the state of the art meeting rooms.

The main building of the hotel includes 46 rooms and 8 luxury suites, and the new building, across the road, adds

another 25 rooms. All rooms feature brand new floors, tailor-made lacquered furniture, satellite plasma television, ultra-comfortable beds with luxurious mattresses, and sophisticated bathrooms. Guests enjoy the same high quality of comfort, facilities, and services throughout the hotel. Lato has two highly rated a la carte restaurants that offer local cuisine: Brillant operates from October to May, and the Herbs' Garden rooftop restaurant from May to October. Korinna Alexandri, General Manager of Lato Boutique Hotel, says that with the recent refurbishment, they have stayed true to their ambition to create an atmosphere of traditional Cretan hospitality in which guests feel at home, and in which at the same time they can enjoy a high standard of quality and comfort. All this comes at affordable rates, she emphasises. And we only need to check the online rating sites to confirm that Lato's guests agree with her.

