

Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete to Open in April 2008

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In November 2006 Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts announced the takeover of the 40,000 sqm Candia Maris holiday resort on Crete. After a period of extensive modernisation and expansion during the winter months last year and this year, the new 5-star Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete is ready to open on schedule in April 2008.

"We're very much looking forward to our first ever hotel in Greece," says Jean Gabriel Pérès, President & CEO Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts. "Our portfolio of exceptional holiday resorts will benefit from the Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete, which will feature yet another Mediterranean highlight tailored precisely to the needs of our guests, alongside Djerba, Beirut and Bodrum."

During the first phase the lobby and other public areas were remodelled, and last winter the existing bedrooms in the main building were completely renovated. This winter the restaurants are to be given a facelift, with the existing bungalows and swimming pools to be modernised. The upgrade schedule also includes the building of new bungalows, some of which will have private pools, and an additional swimming pool. The spacious gardens are also to be redesigned to include, among other things, a new poolside bar.

The new Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete is located directly on Amadoura Beach, famous for its vast expanses of fine sand on Crete's northern coastline, 6 km to the west of Heraklion and 12 km from the International Airport.

Each of the 285 spacious and modern rooms and suites boasts a sea view and all the amenities to be expected of a upscale holiday resort. Five restaurants and bars offer an extensive and varied culinary choice. The resort also has its own 3,000 sqm seawater spa facility, which remains under the professional management of the owning company Maris Hotels, featuring a wide range of traditional thalassotherapy, wellness and beauty treatments, including a spinal rehabilitation institute. There are plenty of opportunities for relaxation, with several indoor and outdoor seawater pools, a sauna and steam rooms.

Sporting activities include a fitness centre, tennis court, billiards and, down on the beach, a choice of water sports. The Kids' Club with paddling pool caters for toddlers and young children, and for business travellers there is a modern conference centre with seven seminar rooms and a capacity of 800 participants. A picturesque chapel is also available for weddings celebrated at the Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete.

"We're convinced this upscale hotel will be very well received by our main European markets," says Brigitte Rohling, General Manager at the Mövenpick Resort & Thalasso Crete. "Families and honeymooners as well as individual holidaymakers and business travellers will feel right at home with us, and appreciate our genuine Swiss hospitality combined with Greece's legendary savoir vivre."

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