



## EMELISSE ART HOTEL Kefalonia, Greece

**BEST FOR...** Med travellers looking for a designer home from home.

**WHY?** Because if you want to escape the crowds and hassles of modern life without leaving behind its comforts, this design hotel is for you. A palette of soothing, earthy tones and simple teak furniture create a relaxed, contemporary vibe. Sitting amid acres of cedar and cypress trees on the shores of Kefalonia's Emblisi Bay, it's a fantastically serene spot, something the hotel really makes the most of. There are terraces with comfy sofas and six pools to cool off in if the short walk to the beach seems too much.

**WHERE?** Kefalonia, one of the Ionian islands, lies to the west of the Greek mainland and was the setting for *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. It's rugged and mountainous, with acres of olive trees and wild flowers, but it doesn't get invaded by the same huge number of yachties or English techno-tourists as some of its more high-profile neighbours, so it's pleasantly undeveloped. The coastline is dotted with tiny fishing villages that give you a taste of Greek life.

**STAYING IN** Kefalonia is one of Greece's sunniest islands, so just crash out with a book and a cold drink by one of the pools, or pop into the spa run by Earth Spa for some five-star pampering. As the sun dips below the horizon, sip some fantastic local Robola wine in the glow of the 250 candles and hidden lights twinkling in the restaurants and alleyways.

**STYLE STEAL** A teak-framed armchair with cream cotton seats and a brilliant blue or red cushion – that's simple, modern Med style.

**GOING OUT** Hire a boat for a mini island cruise, go scuba diving or explore the island's rocky interior. The hotel has two glorious restaurants, Ostrako for mouthwatering seafood, and Riza, a new bar/restaurant with its own pool and open-air cinema. If they don't tickle your taste buds, then take a taxi into the nearby village of Fiskardo for a simple taverna supper on the seafront.

**MORE INFO** Doubles cost from £128. To book, call 0030 26740 41200 or visit [www.arthotel.gr/emelisse](http://www.arthotel.gr/emelisse).



## DUOMO HOTEL Rimini, Italy

**BEST FOR...** Style slaves seeking the ultimate city-beach break.

**WHY?** Ron Arad designed this achingly modern 43-room hotel, which opened this May. You'll find daring colours and bonkers features, including a reception area housed in a vast, tilted chrome ring. The bedrooms have wetroom 'pods' and the front door is shaped like giant pin-bail flippers.

**WHERE?** Bang in the heart of Rimini's historical centre. The town, on the Emilia-Romagna coast of north-eastern Italy, is traditionally the country's family resort, but in recent years a clutch of boutique hotels aimed at young weekenders has opened and the club scene has exploded.

**STAYING IN** The bar is as futuristic as the rest of the hotel – a large island construction made of stainless steel with fjord-like recesses for dining. Enjoy a glass or two from the superb Italian wine list and a light meal. There's no pool at the hotel, although three of the rooms have outdoor Jacuzzis, but the beach is only a short walk away. And at the end of a long and beautiful day, make use of the in-house pillow service, so you can find just the right plumpness for your weary head.

**STYLE STEAL** The combination of bright white and lime green in the bedroom is fresh and invigorating.

**GOING OUT** Rimini is the clubbing capital of Italy – it now has about 1,500 night clubs – with weekenders flocking there from as far as Rome. Start with a drink on the beachfront strip, then head to Paradiso on via Covignano or, for a Latin vibe, try Byblos, a villa in the hills to the south. Hotel Duomo's rock club and bar hosts live DJs and its summertime Sunday parties on the beach are a decadent treat. By day, flex your plastic on fantastic shoes at Casa Dei, Corso D'Augusto, then enjoy the traditional evening stroll – the passeggiata – taking in the Piazza Cavour, with its cafés and historic fish market.

**MORE INFO** Rooms cost from around £139. Book through Design Hotels on 00800 3746 8357 or visit [www.designhotels.com](http://www.designhotels.com).

