

**Association of Friends of the Cretan Tradition
"XASTERIA"**

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In September 2012, a group of friends of different origins, with respect and love for Crete founded the Association of Friends of the Cretan Tradition "Xasteria" in Thermi, in order to preserve and spread the traditions, customs and cultural activities of Crete throughout the world.

It was the southernest part of Greece missing from Thermi ... It was the songs and dances that were missing from the events and the cultural activities of the region ... It was also the culture of the island with the notable people, the different way of expressing their emotions, the need to feel closer to their place, to find their home and in this way to be able to carry their tradition, which housed "Xasteria" in its own place, in Thermi.

In the house of "Xasteria" on Fridays, the "company" is organized, with Cretan dishes, music, song and dance, waiting for friends and passers-by to join in a big company that loves Crete. In this area are also active the sections of the Association:

- Special section of music and song for the disabled people
- Cretan traditional dances learning courses

♪ Kids ♪ Adults ♪ Women's & Men's dancing figures

- Traditional musical instruments learning courses

♪ Lyre ♪ Lute ♪ Mandolin

Institutional annual events are taking place, starting in the autumn with the outdoor space "Cretan Celebration" in Agios Tryfonas' parkland for the beginning of the year, continuing in the winter with the annual dance just before Christmas and ending in the Spring with "Xesterias Xelemelessa" at Parana Square in Thermi, which marks the end of the music-dancing year. "Xasteria" has significant co-organizations and collaborations, participates in traditional dances, charity events and is always open to suggestions for cultural activities that promote the tradition of the place as long as necessary.

President: Antonis Fountoulakis

Teachers: Giannakakis Vangelis - Chila Anna