Venice Protesters Challenge Bezos Wedding: “No Space for Bezos”

Venice erupted in protest during Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez’s lavish three-day wedding (June 26–28, 2025). Hundreds of Venetians—backed by grassroots groups like “No Space for Bezos” and environmental NGOs—vehemently oppose the billionaire spectacle in their iconic city.

Photography by Viviana Silotto

Why the Protests Matter

1. Overtourism & Displacement
Protesters argue that Venice is no longer a living city but a

postcard for billionaires and cruiseship tourists. With fewer than 50,000 permanent residents, locals struggle with spiraling housing costs and disappearing public services .

2. Environmental Strain
Activists from Greenpeace and local associations highlight how extravagant events—like canal blockades, private yachts, and excessive fireworks—further damage fragile lagoon ecosystems .

3. Symbol of Wealth Inequality
With slogans such as “Kisses Yes, Bezos No” and “Eat the Rich,” protest banners calling for higher billionaire taxes have flooded landmark locations like Rialto Bridge and St. Mark’s Square.

Protests Spark Change

In a significant win, organizers forced the wedding reception venue to be moved from central Scuola Grande della

Misericordia to the more isolated Arsenale in Castello. Demonstrators had threatened canal blockades and floating inflatable crocodiles near the original site—a creative display of civil resistance.

Voices from the Ground

Venetian resident and protestor Martina Vergnano stated, “We are here to ruin the plans of these rich people… while the conditions of this city remain precarious”. Another activist, Flavio Cogo, criticized Bezos’s €1 million donation to environmental groups as mere “greenwashing”.

Balancing Economy & Ethics

While some city officials hail the wedding as a financial boon—citing income for hotels, water taxis, and local artisans—many Venetians contend that short-term gains come at the cost of cultural and ecological damage.

A Call for Sustainable Tourism

The protest movement isn’t about opposing all tourism—it’s about reclaiming Venice as a city for its residents, not just a spectacle for the ultra-wealthy. The “No Space for Bezos” rallying cry reflects a wider demand for policies that prioritize everyday Venetians over billionaire vanity projects.

What’s Next?

Activists are urging municipal and national leaders to enact stricter caps on private events, enforce community housing protections, and regulate tourist flow. Their message is clear: Venice deserves to stay a living city—sustainable, vibrant, and for its people.

Conclusion

Venice’s bold stand against the Bezos wedding sends a powerful message: no matter how deep the pockets, public welfare and local legacy must come first. The “No Space for Bezos” protests may well mark a turning point in reclaiming Venice from commercialization.

https://www.positive-magazine.com/venice-protesters-challenge-bezos-wedding-no-space-for-bezos/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=venice-protesters-challenge-bezos-wedding-no-space-for-bezos