

# Venice Locals Protest Jeff Bezos Wedding

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Some people in Venice are upset because Amazon's founder, Jeff Bezos, is getting married there soon. His wedding will be very fancy and expensive, and it might close parts of the city for several days. Many rich and famous guests are expected, like Kim Kardashian and Katy Perry, and even members of the Trump family. Hundreds of guests will stay in the best hotels or even on Jeff Bezos' private yachts. Because of this, most of the city's fancy hotels are already booked.

A group called "No Space for Bezos" is leading protests against the wedding. They say Venice is becoming more like a playground for rich people instead of a real city where normal people can live. They think events like this wedding make life harder for locals, who are being pushed out by expensive vacation rentals and tourist businesses. Long ago, about 175,000 people lived in Venice, but now there are fewer than 49,000 residents. In fact, last year the city had more tourists than locals for the first time ever.

The protest group is planning peaceful ways to disrupt the wedding, like blocking the small streets so guests can't reach the party or swimming in the canals to stop water taxis. They also hung banners on famous buildings like the Rialto Bridge to show their message.

Venice's mayor does not agree with the protesters. He says they are making the city look bad and that important events like this bring jobs and money. Some business owners also think the wedding will help shops and hotels.



## Comprehension Questions:

- What is the main idea of the article?
  - Jeff Bezos is moving to Venice.
  - The mayor of Venice wants to stop tourism.
  - Tourists are no longer visiting Venice.
  - A famous wedding is causing problems in Venice
- The protest group wants to disrupt the wedding. What does "disrupt" mean?
  - To clean up
  - To help organize
  - To cause problems or stop something
  - To pay for something
- Expensive hotels are already booked for wedding guests. What does "booked" mean?
  - Decorated with books
  - Reserved in advance
  - Owned by someone
  - Cleaned and organized

4. Why are some people in Venice unhappy about the wedding?
- a) They don't like weddings.
  - b) They think it will help the city.
  - c) They believe it causes too many tourists and problems.
  - d) They wanted to be invited.
5. What does the protest group think is happening to Venice?
- a) It is becoming a quiet village again.
  - b) It is turning into a place only for rich people.
  - c) It is becoming more popular with families.
  - d) It is starting to ban tourists.
6. What is the group "No Space for Bezos" mainly trying to do?
- a) Stop all tourists from coming to Venice.
  - b) Invite Jeff Bezos to speak with them.
  - c) Help the mayor with city planning.
  - d) Protect Venice for local people.
7. What can you guess about the locals' feelings toward rich tourists?
- a) They want more tourists to move in.
  - b) They think rich tourists are helping them find homes.
  - c) They feel pushed out and ignored.
  - d) They don't care who visits.
8. What is one reason some people support the wedding?
- a) It will help the local economy.
  - b) It will make Venice quieter.
  - c) It will give them a free Amazon Prime subscription.
  - d) It will reduce hotel prices.
9. Which of these statements is false?
- a) Jeff Bezos will have a small, simple wedding.
  - b) Some locals plan to block streets.
  - c) The mayor thinks the wedding is good for business.
  - d) Many rich and famous people will attend the wedding.
10. Why does the mayor disagree with the protesters?
- a) He thinks the wedding will bring jobs and money.
  - b) He wants to cancel the wedding.
  - c) He is part of the protest group.
  - d) He doesn't like Jeff Bezos.

### **Speaking and Writing Activities:**

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
  - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. Do you think it's fair for a city to be closed for a celebrity wedding? Why or why not?
  2. What are some good ways to protest something you don't agree with?
  3. Have you ever visited a place that felt too crowded with tourists? What was it like?