

# Bollywood Wedding in Venice

This is what we know about the kolossal indian wedding

If last week's marriage between Pramod Mittal's daughter, brother of the famous Lakshmi, the Indian steel king, **that was held in Istanbul, and that was resolved as an entirely private affair**, a kind of festive hurricane beat down on the Venetian Lagoon since yesterday evening, May 12, with a first big party in the sixteenth-century Sansovinian spaces of the "Scuola della Misericordia" in Cannaregio, to last until Saturday 14 included. **A true blockbuster-marriage**, venetian **Bollywood** style, **métissage of classic local repertoires especially from the eighteenth century** and a mix of lush and exotic inserts.

**There are about 1200 guests** -many of them billionaires, including the fabulous Mittal in full force- came from all over the world, especially from Delhi and Mumbai, to celebrate the wedding of Vineeta, rich daughter of the iron tycoon Pramod Agarwal, with Muqit Teja. **The family lives mostly in London**, but perhaps they chose Venice because of its romantic and evocative atmosphere as Gate to the East. Staggering figures are rumored, **around more than 20 million euros as overall expenses**, with expensive options such as a dinner placé signed by Italian multi-Michelin-starred Chef **Massimiliano Alajmo** from restaurant Le Calandre in Sarameola di Rubano, not far from Padua, a **Shakira** concert complete with a dance crew that will be held today, day 2 of the opulent wedding extravaganza at Tese Arsenale, **and a young and brilliant** -other than, they say, very expensive- **flower designers who specially came from Paris** with a riot of large sized flowers ranging from nothing short of apocalyptic measures.

The actual wedding ceremony, a long, fascinating and complex ritual, **with a thousand symbolic and auspicious meanings**, will take place Saturday at the San Clemente Palace Hotel & Resort on the island of the same name between the Giudecca and the Lido. **Do not even try to find a free room in Venice for the next weekend**. It's impossible, set your mind at rest. In fact all the luxury hotels have been practically confiscated to provide hospitality to Agarwal's crowd of friends. A very strict security service **and a 'draconian' ban on photographers, journalists and paparazzi**, even though some indiscretion was leaked and a crew from Canale 5 has even slipped into the Scuola della Misericordia during the mounting of the scenography.

Sealed lips even for the great metteur en scène of the two parties foregoing the day of the wedding, **the now internationally sought after Matteo Corvino**, based in Venice and Paris, the best of the best of the global parties to his credit, including the macro-dinner for the **Fondation François Pinault** at the upcoming Venice Biennale. We only know that Corvino has been working for months **and that the stage set is extraordinary**, with entire re-enactment of imaginary cities, **a 17 by 8 meter canvas meticulously painted with acrylic colours** by a specialist, that reproduces a famous Canaletto's view of Bacino Marciano on a huge scale, chandeliers made of flowers, amazing lighting effects and more. Taking care of the marriage rite setting will instead be an Indian ueber decorator, Sumant Jayakrishnan, who practically took possession of the island of San Clemente to turn it **into a Bollywood-style reverie**. What's there to say? Time will tell, meanwhile Venetians' and not Venetians' curiosity is skyrocketing...