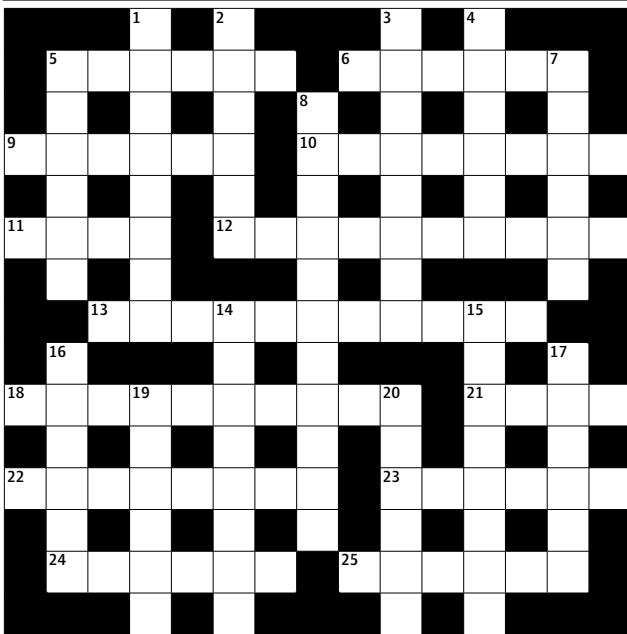


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,094 set by Pasquale

Across

- 5 A particular Christian's superior, last to admit evil (6)
- 6 Decay of one beset by worries (6)
- 9 One's held in custody – in poorer health, about to catch cold (6)
- 10 Official order to blockade islands when there's a disturbance (8)
- 11 Part of 24-25's description of management post for the audience (4)
- 12 Act, oarsmen being in trouble in US river (10)
- 13 Note (as the answer here) female's assessment of certain 11s (24-25's) (6-5)
- 18 Thinking no more of winning? In favour of coming first! (10)
- 21 See 4
- 22 First person (terrible) to hold company back (like 11s slammed by 24-25) (8)
- 23 Baby at home keeping silent? On the contrary (6)
- 24,25 The way beer satisfies a journalist (6-6)

Down

- 1 Be impertinent to artist and priest in Beaconsfield (8)
- 2 Bearded author with script showing old instruments (6)

- 3 Henry joins in expression of disapproval, missing nothing (5-3)
- 4,21 Core feature of a tragedian's word to criticise 24-25's 11s (6-4)
- 5 Conductor offering drinks to travellers, maybe! (6)
- 7 Say that's beyond the bounds of fool! (6)
- 8 Tarnished record embarrassed one ex-Tory PM (11)
- 14 Act to stifle silly chat, being aloof (8)
- 15 It's natural to keep in step and fail to be vibrant (8)
- 16 Conservative religious school into very big tricks (6)
- 17 Recovered from booze, not wanting any brought in (6)
- 19 Charm of AR's successor repeatedly evident (3-3)
- 20 Meat good for offering to pagan god (6)

Solution No. 25,093

S	P	A	N	I	S	H	C	U	S	T	O	M	S	
H	N	R	E	N	R	O	S							
O	V	E	N	R	E	A	D	Y	O	W	L	E	T	
P	M	E	D	O	T	L	E							
P	R	O	N	G	B	A	K	E	H	O	U	S	E	
I	N	U	A	E	S	P								
N	E	E	D	L	I	N	G	M	A	R	C	E	L	
G	A	D	M	B	E									
C	A	P	E	R	S	C	A	T	H	O	L	I	C	
E	A	H	N	O	U	H								
N	E	R	V	E	L	E	S	S	R	A	S	T	A	
T	A	L	A	A	R	T	S							
R	A	P	I	D	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	E	
E	E	E	E	D	N	U	R							
S	T	I	R	O	N	E	S	S	T	U	M	P	S	