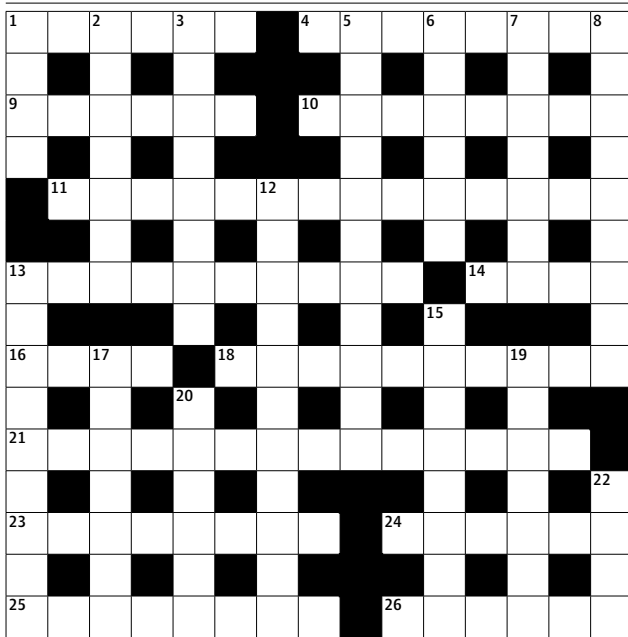


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,638 set by Picaroon

## Across

- 1 Sleazy guy's article in Paris Match on how to open a French letter (6)
- 4 He preserves 1/6th of an inch marble bust (8)
- 9 Hot drink and porridge for him! (6)
- 10 Force to apprehend associates returning directly (4-4)
- 11 Prepared for roistering around area where buffets are common (7,7)
- 13 Abandoned UK province rejected Luther's Reformed Church (2,3,5)
- 14 Foreign ruler with recipe for jelly (4)
- 16 Desire endless hot soak (4)
- 18 Disgruntled peasant gets stuck in to more agreeable beverage (5,5)
- 21 Conservative attitude is fixed aim in old artist (14)
- 23 High-flying female gulls heard by a Roman road (8)
- 24 Silver, say, is good value (6)
- 25 Online swine strikes with pointed remarks (8)
- 26 Going out with Frenchman from the right society (6)

## Down

- 1 Ex-PM losing head in retreat (4)
- 2 Millions invested in business stake – it may promote growth (7)

- 3 Old newspaperman, having admitted wrong, made a racket? (8)
- 5 Wrongdoing from the anti-feminist league? (11)
- 6 Regularly wearied by a politician's current measure (6)
- 7 Objectively, I gain ground introducing new import (7)
- 8 Recorder playing air gets in right runs (9)
- 12 Personality disorder raging in Tom Cruise (11)
- 13 Mail late as express isn't complete – that's awkward (3,2,4)
- 15 House is grand; nothing dirty's shown up (8)
- 17 Tongue was strained greeting a couple from Lithuania (7)
- 19 He has left the property (7)
- 20 German combatant in the Battle of the Bulge? (6)
- 22 Footballing whiz dropping back in muddle (4)

Solution No. 25,637

