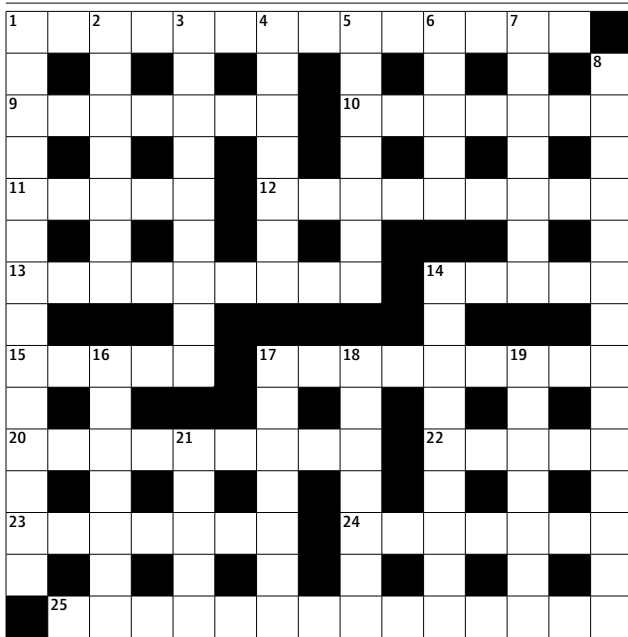


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,056 set by Philistine

Across

- 1 Merci, la Mafia! (9,5)
- 9 Invigorate and put the heart back in metropolitan evil neighbourhood (7)
- 10 A hundred compete in school squash (7)
- 11 It's a gem of a conference, perhaps with fifty in attendance (5)
- 12 Perhaps T-bone makes one look masculine (6,3)
- 13 Runs through the centre of Florence with several black cars in pursuit (9)
- 14 Tinned American (5)
- 15 Even board members, having dined, give a speech (5)
- 17 Incompetent at home, father gets entangled in flex (9)
- 20 Typically working, say, a long time (2,7)
- 22 Haven of Love by Status Quo (5)
- 23 French Beaujolais, in essence: lovely fine red finally appreciated (7)
- 24 Take pies or cake – all 50% starch (7)
- 25 Part of a lover that's rather tight (1,3,2,1,7)

Down

- 1 Not a good time to reap – some room for improvement (1,7,1,5)
- 2 Philistine's end in piggyback (7)
- 3 Fiery stuff served up with baked beans garnish in Portsmouth? (5,4)
- 4 Passages transgress on forms of employment (7)
- 5 Talk about an athletic event with squad leader (7)
- 6 In some way, the poor are rich (but that's relatively unusual) (5)
- 7 Host welcomes military clique's demoted leader, a beast (7)
- 8 Coldplay's latest hit (newer compilation) (3,7,4)
- 14 Compiler's on time and solver reported unprepared (9)
- 16 A radio personality in a hairstyle that's a mess (1,3,3)
- 17 Supporting dissolute Floridian without taking sides (2,3,2)
- 18 Boxes boxes sweetheart makes (7)
- 19 Custom-made bike frame and wheel component (7)
- 21 State of mutant genotype after one gets up and leaves (5)

Solution No. 26,055

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