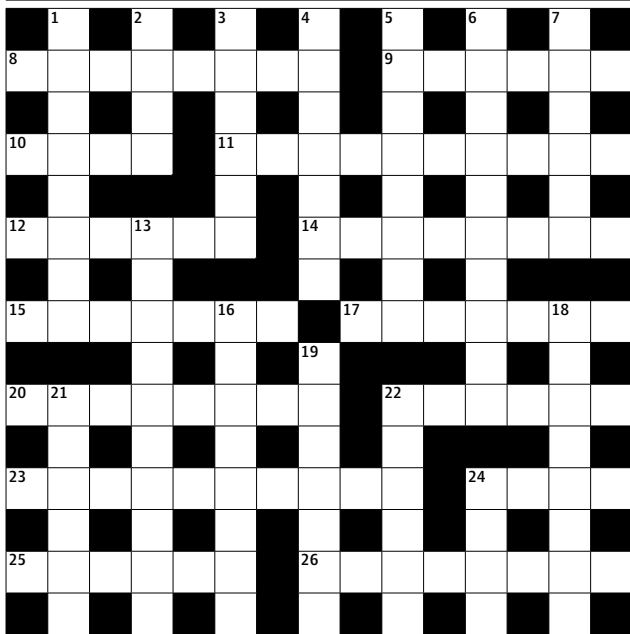


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,244 set by Paul

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 26,244, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 5 May.

Across

- 8** China in Korea, say – one's ideal partner? (4,4)
9 A lot came to be evacuated immediately (2,4)
10 See 22
11 Too bad, if starters in restaurant burnt beyond recognition – there's salad! (6,4)
12 Sound of bagpipes that's hard to bear! (6)
14 Policeman not able to claim that Spanish victory (8)
15 See 3
17 Hot spring turned on for every one, possibly (7)
20 Queen inside volcano should be brought back, they feel (8)
22,10 Molière requires three seconds to contrive a comparatively oxymoronic theatrical cliché? (4,2,4)
23 Spooner's locks implanted, nothing on top (4-6)
24 See 2
25 Intoxicating drink making camels woozy (6)
26 Consider putting cut inside lid (4,4)

Down

- 1** State capital no great thing, house overlooking it (8)
2,24across Rare phenomenon, very rare to idle about (4,4)

- 3,15** Successful investor in 11? Then capital in tomatoes! (6,7)
4 Recovery when hit by the Beatles (3,4)
5 One plays this G & S character (8)
6 Sweaty hands, signs of discomfort in woman (3,7)
7 A short type of clue (6)
13 Redraft in decree outlining very strong argument (10)
16 Flashy and cheap little houses to auction off (8)
18 Criminal person, one inside, ending in slammer (8)
19 Finding scorer, cup ties both kicking off (7)
21 Apple inferior to an unspecified number – more in apple-pie order? (6)
22 Half a century, one counting as a run (6)
24 Low tide initially doubtful (4)

Solution No. 26,243

