ACROSS

1 Grim, the old lady about to grab taxi (7)
5 Undertaking linked to fewer being unemployed (7)
9 Duke having a tea in a country house (5)
10 Outfitter Tom Cruise used (9)
11 Universal replacing number in small parts ready to quarrel (9)
12 Gather fuel round lake (5)
13 Return to the starting point with CO and detailed soldiers crowded round? (4,4,6)
18 Typical traveller (14)
20 Colloquialisms in indigenous language (5)
22 Bad during first half of reel after square dance (9)
24 Round after cure? Blow me! (5,4)
25 Money that is missing from old golf club (5)
26 Opposed to increases in a toll, initially (7)
27 Keep out of sight to study sound of sea creature (7)

DOWN

1 Name of dog that has come over wearing my temper? (6)
2 In very high spirits, a band supporting strutting leader (4-1-4)
3 Slate bishop after all others (5)
4 Court in Colne? Not exactly certain (9)
5 Kids spending time outside university college (5)
6 Down drink in pub around middle of afternoon – that’s the original plan (9)
7 One deported from former French island (5)
8 After trips out, love endless white wine with soda (8)
14 Holly, perhaps, constantly on putting area (9)
15 The garlic could make one sluggish (9)
16 Sparkling wine, liberally laced in Coward play (9)
17 Girl – she drifted over a large stretch of water (5,3)
19 Deceitful type may get women’s support (6)
21 Distinctive smell in area overlooking Italians’ capital? (5)
22 Bedspread left outside front of laundrette (5)
23 Steal from popular boy (5)

SOLUTION 15,633

Sunset Boulevard
Hallun slag
Outplay test ban
Oate eating
Talon running medal
Ffig A

Roast lamb intro
Megan shed tears
Tlc terec
Head first ratio
Ezra e air
Hair oil malison
I ed ipiae
P ersonal trainer

A prize of The Good Word Guide by Martin Manser and How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions by Wednesday September 13, marked Prize Crossword 15,645 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday September 18.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on September 16.