

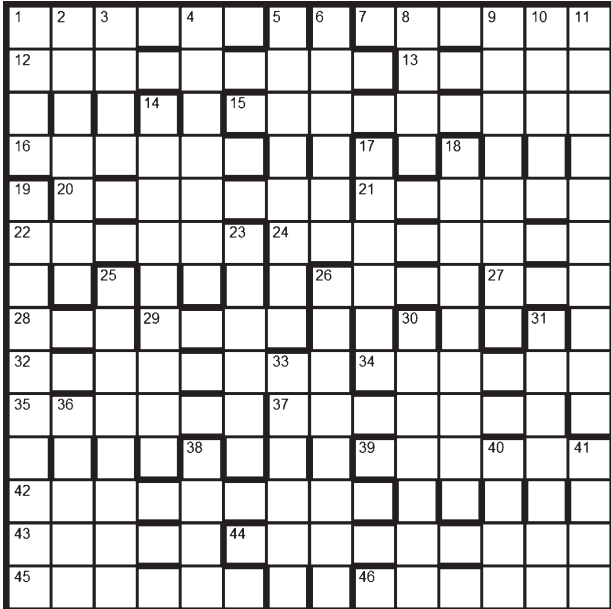
The unclued lights share a common feature, while two trios from among the clued Down solutions do so to a lesser extent. Ignore an acute accent.

Across

- 1 Give confidence when not at sea, reportedly (6)
- 7 Tolerated, having cut through undergrowth and fouled (6)
- 13 River horse, so to speak (5)
- 16 County not right accepting vice inspection (6)
- 21 This girl lost her head during nuclear power plant disaster (6)
- 22 Variety of sandstone produces vintage Merlot, say (3,3)
- 24 Tinted visor certainly owned during middle of week (8)
- 26 High point is getting married in a church (4)
- 27 Ballpoint brand with blue ink cap, for starters (3)
- 28 Grass turned over in the Chinese way (3)
- 29 Rowdy Aussie party at harbour, now and again on time (4)
- 35 French forces Doc into 8 (6)
- 37 I go nuts arranging day trips (7)
- 39 Are sections of bone found here in Italy? (6)
- 43 Salvo possible but not rounds (5)
- 46 Take in Sartre novel (6)

Down

- 1 Fliers at the very heart of the parody (4)
- 2 Developments as the briny calms down, we hear (7)
- 3 Insinuation that Sri Lanka upset Richards, for starters (4)



- 4 Fails to keep a promise – at bridge? (7)
- 5 32 spilt drinks here at county show (4)
- 6 Some pray elsewhere, upsetting church founder (6)
- 8 Barriers regularly holding Olympian (4)
- 9 Two chancellors take to one vegetable (8)
- 10 You grab people, turning up hostile (5)
- 17 One that's cold to walk over (3,3)
- 19 Left large hound at site of steelworks (4,6)
- 23 Difficult times in nameless township in NW Sutherland (6)
- 25 Mathematical principles for dealing with fumarole (8)
- 26 Use paper crumpled in France to a certain extent (1,3,4)
- 30 Mac's salmon spear removed half the dace from county town (7)
- 31 Abbey's wild geese oddly missing, as well (7)
- 33 Why one may have had a dry old Christmas (6)

- 36 Female bird in here, eventually (5)
- 38 Opening of motet points to lyre's middle string (4)
- 40 Pipe carrying water to sides of hothouse (4)
- 41 It borders this little land and former ferry point across the Severn (4)

A first prize of a £30 John Lewis voucher and two runners-up prizes of £20 vouchers for the first correct solutions opened on 2 June. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2703, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.

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