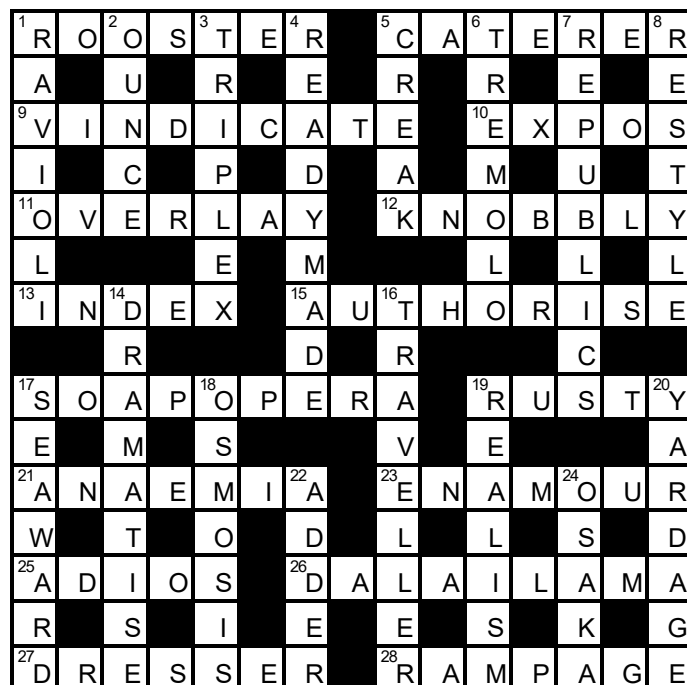




Across

- 1** Cock Robin beginning to circle fashion store (7)
 rooster (Cock - R[obin] (beginning letter) + O (circle) + STORE* (anagram="fashion"))
- 5** Cook for three queens (7)
 caterer (Cook - CAT (queen / female cat) + ER + ER (2x Elizabeth Regina))
- 9** Da Vinci work needs the case to be clear (9)
 vindicate (Clear (of blame) - (DA VINCI)* (anagram="work") + T[h]E (case/outside of the word))
- 10** Almost show exhibits (5)
 expos (Exhibits - Almost EXPOS[e] (show))
- 11** Done down and put upon (7)
 overlay (Put (something) upon - OVER (done) + LAY (down verb))
- 12** Hit back, by and large, mixed with lumps (7)
 knobbly (Lumps - Reversal (back) of BONK (hit) + (BY+L)* (anagram="Mixed"))
- 13** Key in door, opening to former lover (5)
 index (Key - IN + D[oor] (opening letter) + EX (former lover))
- 15** Arab state confused about god is to get sanction (9)
 authorise (Sanction - UAE* ("Arab state" anagram="confused") around THOR (god) & IS)
- 17** Neighbours say cleaner has time after work (4,5)
 soap opera (Neighbours for example - SOAP (cleaner) + ERA (time) after OP (work))
- 19** Titian is out of practice (5)
 rusty (Double definition - Titian (rust/auburn coloured) & out of practice)
- 21** Dracula, I mean appearing in the mirror, keeps lacking blood cells (7)
 anaemia (Lacking blood cells - Reversed hidden word ("in the mirror, keeps") - [dracul]A I MEAN A[ppearing])
- 23** Charm Eastern small country that belongs to us (7)
 enamour (Charm - E (Eastern) + [viet]NAM (small/shortened country) + OUR (belongs to us))
- 25** Pop held me back for so long (5)
 adios (So long (goodbye) - Reversal (back) of SODA (pop) holding I (me))
- 26** To be a boy getting back over trouble with head of faith (5,4)
 Dalai Lama (Head of (Tibetan buddhist) faith - Reversal of AM (to be) + A + LAD (boy), around (over) AIL (trouble))

27 One covering furniture (7)

dresser (Furniture - one "covering" an actor with a costume)

28 Hit hard and call for riot (7)

rampage (Riot - RAM (hit hard) + PAGE (call for))

Down

1 Italian course is a detailed fiddle after Roman starter (7)

ravioli (Italian course - VIOLI[n] (a "fiddle" without a tail) after R[oman] starting letter)

2 Lightweight leopard (5)

ounce (Double definition - Leopard, and a light weight)

3 Car window shows journey to 'la manche' terminals with map location (7)

triplex (Car window (material) - TRIP (journey) + L[a manch]E (terminals/ends) + X (marks the spot on map))

4 Dreamy, dead dreamy without beginning but good to go (5-4)

ready-made (Good to go - Anagram ("dreamy") of DEAD [d]REAMY (without beginning))

5 Show weakness and care about the weekend (5)

creak (Show weakness - CARE* (anagram="about") + [wee]K (-end of the word))

6 Lot more wavering (7)

tremolo (Wavering - (LOT MORE)* (anagram="wavering" - doing double duty as definition))

7 France and Italy bar disturbing remains (9)

republics (France and Italy (being examples) - PUB (bar) inside (disturbing) RELICS (remains))

8 Do-over, over do? (7)

restyle (Do-over - RE (over/about) + STYLE (hair do))

14 Make a play for drink, tea is wrong (9)

dramatise (Make a play - DRAM (drink) + (TEA IS)* (anagram="wrong"))

16 One moving magician to take back controversial decision maker (9)

traveller (One moving - TELLER (magician, of Penn & Teller) around reversal of VAR (Video Assistant Referee / controversial decision maker))

17 The main drawback of going to the beach (7)

seaward (Going to(wards) the beach - SEA (the main) + reversal (back) of DRAW)

18 Map time with a relative way to balance concentration (7)

osmosis (Way to balance concentration (in plants) - OS (map/Ordnance Survey) + MO (time/moment) + SIS (relative/sister))

19 Fidelity is dividing the kingdom (7)

realism (Fidelity (true to life) - IS inside (dividing) REALM(kingdom))

20 Like a cart, turned over in the distance (7)

yardage (Distance - Reversal of EG (like) + A + DRAY (cart))

22 Reptile seen in summer (5)

adder (Reptile - summer (one "adding" numbers in sums))

24 Oscar Small has another name for tennis player (5)

Osaka (Tennis player (Naomi) - O (Oscar) + S (small) + AKA (another name/also known as))