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DENIS

RESTAURANT MANAGER: HOTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE

Denis Courtiade has never had a typical day at work and is pleased that his job allows him to escape routine. “When one likes what one does, it’s crazy how one can find the resources to make sure everything goes alright, even when things don’t necessarily work out as planned,” he says.

In an effort to ensure the positive development of the hospitality sector, he shares and passes on his vision, experience and knowledge by working directly with younger students in training colleges. “Working with young colleagues has forced me - and still does - to challenge myself. I pay attention to ‘Generation Y’. You

have to be awake and attentive to stay engaged with the younger people.”

He has been awarded the titles of Premier Chef de Rang de France in 1991, Best Head Waiter of the World in 2011, and he received the Top Prize for Hospitality 2010 from the International Academy of Gastronomy. What is the secret to his success?

“My afternoon nap. This is when I turn off my Blackberry. My nap allows me to rest, restore and regenerate myself. It is a moment that belongs to only me and it is how I am then fresh enough to restart and continue until late into the night,” he smiles.



1972, DENIS THE YOUNG GUN



1984, BARTENDER



2006, PART OF THE HOTEL FOOTBALL TEAM