



From Mandela to Kylie

By Adam Todd

FROM Nelson Mandela to Kylie Minogue, chief concierge at the Hilton Adelaide Chris Speck has served some of the world's biggest names.

"People think celebrities and Hollywood A-listers are high maintenance but generally it's quite the opposite, they try to keep to themselves without causing too much of the 'I'm here' status," he said.

"Those celebrities that are high maintenance are generally not that big, they want to be big."

Mr Speck oversees the five-star

hotel's 25 porters, ensuring guests' cars are parked, bags carried in and various requests are met.

"Most clients have certain requests, a lot of them are about seeing whether the hotel can meet them.

"Someone might come in and ask for nine oranges, six apples and four grapefruits, they don't necessarily want them, it's just to see if we can get them." Mr Speck, who lives in the Adelaide Hills, started out as a junior porter at the Hilton London in 1994.

When his visa ran out, he returned to Australia to work at

the Hilton Sydney for six years before moving to Adelaide to become chief concierge. All three hotels have housed some of the world's biggest celebrities during his time.

He rates Mandela, the former South African president, as the biggest celebrity he has met.

"People talk about the glow, that a man has an aura, this man is the only man I've ever met in my life that did. It was extraordinary to meet him, extraordinary to service him, he was a very down to earth person."



**Chief concierge
Chris Speck**