

# Prints Charming

## **1. Pick Only Your Best Images**

Better pictures demonstrate you as a better photographer.  
You pay for every photo printed so why waste?

## **2. Colours**

Use the Histogram, or if the image looks wrong and then fix.  
Favour Curves/Levels instead of Brightness/Contrast.  
Auto colour correction can be a valid choice.

## **3. Dust and Noise**

Use Healing Brush or Clone to get rid of every spot.  
ISO 400 and above then consider some noise reduction. 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools can be better than Photoshop (Neat Image, Noise Ninja), some are even free.

## **4. Lens Correction**

If image edges (at 400%) show distinct chromatic aberration then adjust.  
If overall image shows obvious barrel/pincushion distortion then adjust.  
Fix vignetting only if using a Raw or 16-bit image.  
If confident, try correcting converging verticals but only after rotation.

## **5. Rotate**

Level up using the horizon, water and walls – or pick a suitable jaunty angle.  
Photoshop: use Measure tool + Rotate\Arbitrary... or use Crop corner handles.

## **6. Crop**

Compose and fill the frame with the subject – look at centring or Rule of Thirds.  
Dispose of any distractions.

## **7. Resize**

Image Size first - constrain proportions.  
Canvas Size to set exact proportions – this is another crop.  
Avoid resizing if image is already close to correct size, just crop with Canvas size.  
Exactly 300 dpi: 6"x4"=1800x1200, 7"x5" = 2100x1500, 12"x8"=3600x2400.

## **8. Sharpen**

Unsharp Mask: Amount: 80%, Radius: 1.5 pixels, Threshold: unintrusive noise.  
Use your favourite technique but not too much, not too little – just right.

## **9. Save**

Consider embedding an ICC profile – colours will be better.  
Save as JPG at highest quality setting.

## **10. Burn to CD or upload to web Printer**

Do as many files as you can in one go – better price per print.  
Use duplicate files for duplicate images.