Milky Way Post Processing – Serge Ramelli 11/26/2019

He takes two photos: One exposing for the foreground and another for the sky. Here is how he uses Lightroom to process each of these photos before exporting them into Photoshop.

**Milky Way exposure**

Basic Panel

Adjust the White slider to bring out the Milky Way and the surrounding stars

Increase the Texture and Clarity

Crush the Blacks

Boost Highlights

Add some Contrast

Adjust White Balance sliders to warm up a bit and add some Magenta

Radial Filter – create one to cover the Milky Way portion of the photo; Invert the mask

Add some Clarity & Texture

Add some Exposure

Adjust the White Balance sliders to add Magenta and Yellow

Noise Reduction in the foreground – apply a Gradient Filter to the bottom of the photo. Note: bottom line for Gradient is above the bottom of the photo

Lower exposure all the way

Noise slider to 100

Detail panel

A bit of Luminance noise reduction but not enough to blur the stars

**Foreground exposure**

Copy the following settings from the Milky Way photo above

Process Version

White Balance

Basic Tone

Noise Reduction

If that doesn’t work, try the following in the Basic Panel

Highlights down

Set Black Point

Set White Point

**Photoshop**

Import the two photos as Layers

Working on the Milky Way layer create a Mask

Large Selection Brush - set with Hardness set to zero… soft brush

Brush the foreground to select it

Combine the Layers

Save back to Lightroom

Lightroom

Make any further adjustments you feel are necessary