Luminosity Mask
Boosting Contrast & Colour Saturation

Overlay Mode

http://www.photoshopessentials.com/photo-editing/luminosity-mask/

A Luminosity Mask is a way of selecting pixels in an image based on their luminosity, or lightness values.

1. Click on Channels Panel > Hold down Cmd whilst clicking anywhere on the RGB Channel. This will load a selection based on how bright the pixels are. Pixels that are pure white are selected 100%. Pixels that are pure black are not selected at all. Pixels that fall somewhere between white and black are partially selected based on how close they are to white.

2. Back to Layers Panel > with Layer O active > Cmd/J > change the Blend Mode from Normal to Overlay. (If the Overlay Blend Mode is too intense, try the Soft Light Blend Mode instead.)

3. If you need to increase the contrast and colour saturation further, duplicate layer 1 by, pressing Cmd/J. If the contrast is now too strong, lower the opacity to say…50%

4. Group layer 1 copy and layer 1 together, with layer 1 copy active, hold down the shift key and click on layer 1 (both layers are now highlighted). > Cmd/G > double click on Group 1, rename Luminosity.

5. You may find the ruffle of the fungi has completely lost detail when performing the above. To bring back detail, add a Layer Mask to the group

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called Luminosity. Click on the Layer Mask icon, which is at the bottom of the Layers Panel, 4th icon to the left of the Trash icon.

6. Press D on the keyboard to reset Foreground and Background to their defaults in the Tools Panel (left of screen) > Press B on the keyboard to select the brush tool. Change the Flow to 8%. With black as Foreground, brush the over exposed areas of the fungi to bring back the lost detail.