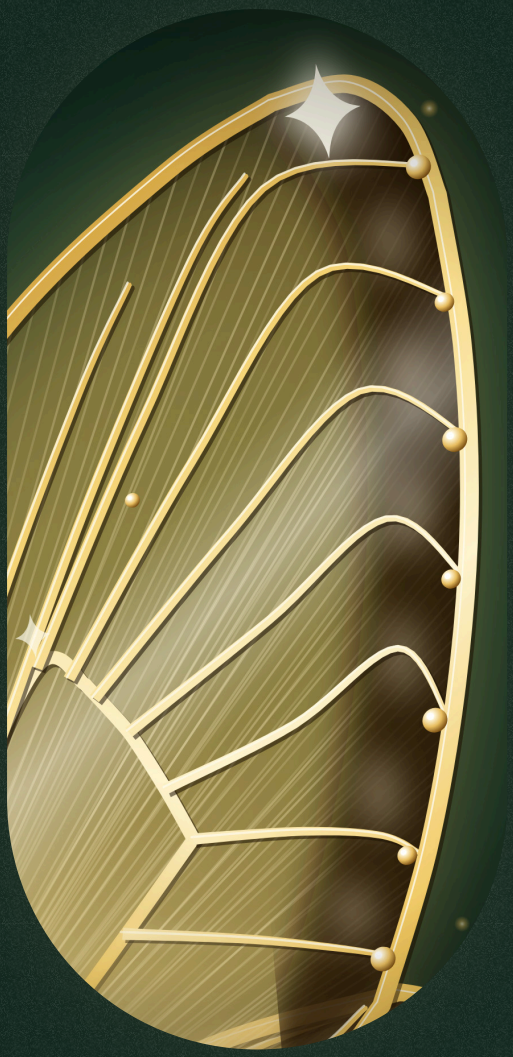


THE COLLECTION BY CHÉ

Melanin *True*

The Skin *Test*

FREE · 10 PROMPTS AND THE TRUE FRAME CARD

VERSION 1.1

OCTOBER 2026

THE SKIN TEST

Ten prompts, one *standard*.

The Skin Test is a free taste of Melanin True: ten complete prompts from the library and the TRUE Frame card, so you can see how precisely described skin, light, hair and place change what your tool returns.

HOW TO USE IT

1. Paste one prompt, exactly as written, into your main image tool. Set the frame shown with it.
2. Generate four variations.
3. Check each one: is the skin the depth the prompt describes? Is the undertone the same on face and hands? Is the finish polished and luminous, with natural fine detail up close, no waxy skin and no added grain or roughness?
4. If the skin drifted, rewrite only the T block with a stronger anchor, and generate again.

START WITH P-38

P-38, Golden Brown, Anchored, is a test of your tool. Run it as written, then again without “a medium-deep brown” and “Black”. In our own tests, “golden-brown skin” on its own often came back as a tan on light skin. The comparison shows you how your tool reads the lighter depth words on their own. If the skin still reads lighter as written, write “rich brown skin, a true medium-deep brown with warm golden undertones” in place of the golden-brown depth words.

WHAT WE PROMISE

A method and a standard, not a perfect image on the first try. Images are labelled concept work; rejected images are withheld. We have not tested every prompt in every tool. Two of the ten prompts here have a worked image, E-01 and E-03. Across the full Melanin True library, five worked-example images are kept after final review, and nineteen of its sample prompts have no image yet.

THE TRUE FRAME CARD

Keep this *beside you*.

T · TONE

[age and person] with [depth] skin, [anchor], and [undertone] undertones; [finish: polished, high-fidelity skin]

R · RADIANCE

[quality] [source] light from [direction] as key; [fill]; a thin rim; exposure set for [her, his or their] skin; rich shadow detail

U · UNIQUE IDENTITY

[hair: style, finish, length, colour, parting]; [wardrobe]; [jewellery]; [expression and posture]

E · ENVIRONMENT

[place] with [materials], at [time and weather]; three true details

+ LENS AND MOTION

[camera], [lens] at [aperture], [angle]; for video, one move, its speed, duration and sound

+ GUARDRAILS

true-to-life colour; polished, high-fidelity skin; the avoid list only in a negative-prompt field

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THE GOLDEN RULE

Change one block at a time. If the skin is right and the light is wrong, rewrite only R.

WORDS TO RETIRE

Food metaphors for skin; “exotic”; “flawless” and “perfect skin”; “fair” as praise; “ethnic”; “nude” or “skin-coloured” as one beige shade.

THE PROMPTS · 1 OF 5

Portraits, *anchored.*

P-01 · The Plaster Room · Portrait · frame 3:4

FULL PROMPT

Close-up beauty portrait of a woman in her late twenties with deep ebony skin, a very deep, dark brown, with cool blue-black undertones, her skin luminous and even, with a soft natural sheen on her cheekbones. Her hair is a glossy silk press falling just past her shoulders, smooth and reflective, with a clean side part. She sits in a quiet room with deep forest-green limewashed plaster walls. Warm natural light from a tall window at 45 degrees camera left is the key, a linen reflector fills gently from below, and a thin rim of window light separates her profile and hair from the dark plaster. Exposure set for her skin, rich shadow detail, highlights never clipped. A strand of pearls, an olive silk blouse, small pearl studs, a calm, direct gaze. Shot on a full-frame camera with an 85mm lens at f/2.8 at eye level. Quiet-luxury editorial portrait, true-to-life colour. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with natural fine pores visible in close-up and a dewy sheen on the high points; true cool blue-black undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

P-03 · The Silver Chignon · Portrait · frame 4:5

FULL PROMPT

Dignified seated portrait of a grandmother in her seventies with deep umber skin, a very dark, rich brown close to ebony, with warm golden undertones, graceful laugh lines and luminous skin. Her silver hair is swept into an elegant low chignon; she wears pearl earrings and a silk scarf in emerald and cream. She sits in a carved wooden armchair in a quiet drawing room with limewashed stone walls, a travertine side table and a single branch of olive leaves in a ceramic vase; tall windows with linen curtains let in soft afternoon light. Window light is the key from camera left, with gentle falloff into shadow; her skin is exposed correctly, with warm catchlights in her eyes. 85mm lens at f/2.8, a respectful, still and unhurried portrait. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with natural fine pores visible in close-up and a dewy sheen on the high points; true warm golden undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

THE PROMPTS · 2 OF 5

Two portraits, one *test*.

P-06 · Diwali on the Stone Terrace · Portrait · frame 4:5

FULL PROMPT

Portrait of a woman of South Asian heritage in her thirties with golden-brown skin and warm undertones, a delicate gold nose ring and long, glossy black hair swept over one shoulder, in an emerald silk sari with fine champagne-gold embroidery. It is Diwali night on the stone steps of a private villa: rows of lit clay diyas line the steps and the edge of a still pool. The flames are the only key light, warm and low, with a faint cool blue fill from the evening sky; her face is exposed correctly with rich shadow detail and catchlights from the flames in her eyes. 50mm lens at f/1.8, an intimate and celebratory mood. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true warm undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

P-38 · Golden Brown, Anchored · Portrait · frame 4:5

FULL PROMPT

Portrait of a young Black woman in her twenties with warm golden-brown skin, a medium-deep brown, clearly brown in every part of the frame, with golden undertones. Her hair is long, straight and glossy with a centre part. She wears a sage linen dress and stands in an olive grove in the late afternoon. Low sun filtered through the leaves from camera right is the key, a warm bounce from the dry grass fills the shadows; exposure set for her skin, warm natural colour without a filter look. 85mm lens at f/2.8, a soft, open smile. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with natural fine pores visible in close-up and a dewy sheen on the high points; true golden undertone.

No worked example: this prompt is a test for your own tool.

THE PROMPTS · 3 OF 5

Editorial *light*.



CONCEPT WORK · GENERATED AND CHECKED IN THE HOUSE IMAGE TOOL

E-01 · The Marble Foyer · Editorial · frame 3:4

FULL PROMPT

High-fashion editorial photograph in the marble foyer of a grand hotel, a sweeping staircase and a crystal chandelier behind her. A tall woman with warm chestnut skin, a medium-deep brown, with subtle red undertones wears a sculptural emerald silk column gown with pearl and brushed-gold jewellery; her hair is a sculpted, glossy finger-wave bob. Daylight from a tall arched window mixes with the warm glow of the chandelier; her skin keeps its depth and shine with no grey cast, and the marble floor reflects soft light upward. Full-length shot on a 35mm lens from a low camera angle for stature, rich and restrained colour. A confident, still pose, like a magazine cover. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true subtle red undertone.

E-02 · Linen at Sunrise · Editorial · frame 4:5

FULL PROMPT

Beauty editorial on the terrace of a private cliffside villa above the sea at sunrise. A man with deep ebony skin, a very deep, dark brown, with cool undertones and a soft, luminous sheen on his skin, wears a cream linen suit with the jacket open and holds a piece of frosted green sea glass up to the light. Soft pink-gold sunrise light comes from behind camera left, a linen reflector adds gentle fill, and light reflected off the water paints a cool silver edge along his cheekbone and shoulder. A close crop and a fine chain. Travertine planters with sage-green foliage frame the edge of the shot. 70mm lens at f/2.8, a polished, luminous finish, a calm and opulent mood. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true cool undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

THE PROMPTS · 4 OF 5

Hair and *range.*



CONCEPT WORK · GENERATED AND CHECKED IN THE HOUSE IMAGE TOOL

E-03 · The Sleek Ponytail in Motion · Editorial · frame 4:5

FULL PROMPT

Hair editorial in a white-walled contemporary art gallery: a young Black woman with warm golden-brown skin, a medium-deep brown, and warm undertones turns mid-stride so her long, sleek high ponytail swings out in a wide, fluid arc. She wears a cream tuxedo dress and pearl drop earrings. Soft frontal light at head height and two narrow strips of edge light behind her for separation, the light sources out of frame, with fast flash freezing the motion; every strand is smooth and reflective, with no frizz and a clean, polished hairline. 50mm lens, framed from the waist up, luxury hair campaign look. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true warm undertone.

E-06 · The Plaster Atelier · Editorial · frame 3:4

FULL PROMPT

Editorial portrait in a couture atelier with pale plaster walls, tall steel-framed windows and a long travertine cutting table; bolts of silk in olive, espresso and cream and a dress form stand softly out of focus. A woman with deep brown skin, a very dark, rich brown, and neutral undertones, her hair in a sleek high bun with not a strand out of place, wears a tailored cream silk suit, pearl earrings and a fine chain. Soft, even north-facing window light, exposure set for her skin, not for the pale walls, so it stays warm, deep and dimensional against the pale interior. 50mm lens at f/2.8, fashion-week editorial. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true neutral undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

THE PROMPTS · 5 OF 5

UGC-style and *motion*.

U-06 · The Blowout Reveal · UGC-style · frame 9:16

FULL PROMPT

Vertical smartphone photo taken by a hairstylist in a luxury salon: a client with deep brown skin, a very dark, rich brown, and neutral undertones sees her finished blowout for the first time in an arched mirror with a pale plaster frame, her hair long, smooth and full of movement, while the stylist holds a round brush beside her. Soft daylight from the shopfront balanced with warm vanity lights, marble counters and velvet chairs, and candid delight on her face. A real, lively salon atmosphere. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true neutral undertone.

No worked image yet for this prompt.

V-02 · A Drop of Gold on Linen · Cinematic video · frame 9:16

FULL PROMPT

Macro commercial shot in slow motion: a single drop of golden facial oil falls from a glass dropper onto the collarbone of a woman with deep ebony skin, a very deep, dark brown, with cool undertones, a cream linen robe slipping from her shoulder; the drop spreads and catches the light on her luminous skin. The background is soft porcelain and sage, out of focus. Warm morning window light is the key, with a gentle backlight tracing a thin rim along her shoulder; her skin is exposed correctly and stays deep and luminous against the pale background. The camera pushes in slowly. Polished, high-fidelity skin, luminous and even, with a dewy sheen on the high points; true cool undertone. Her skin keeps its luminous, high-fidelity finish and true undertone in every frame, with no flicker or waxiness.

No worked example yet for this video prompt.

WHERE TO GO NEXT

When you want the whole *method*.

Melanin True Essentials adds the quick-start guide, 60 prompts across four families, the abridged vocabulary banks and the TRUE QA Checklist. Melanin True Complete adds the full field guide of twelve chapters, all 150 prompts, the Character Bible, the campaign workflow, the ethics kit and quarterly tool-note updates for a year.

USING AI PEOPLE HONESTLY

- Label AI images of people as your platform and your client require.
- Never present an AI person as a real customer, and never have an AI person claim a result.
- Never generate a real, identifiable person without their written consent.

With care,
The CHÉ team