

## PEAR TREE POLARIS INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2023, the Pear Tree Polaris International Opportunities Fund's Ordinary Shares (the "Fund") outperformed its benchmark, the MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (the "Index"). The Fund had a return of 9.06% at net asset value compared to 7.00% for the Index.

### **Market Conditions and Investment Strategies**

The Fund had double-digit returns in overweight sectors (Consumer Discretionary, Industrials, Information Technology and Materials), as well as Real Estate. Financials and Communication Services were the largest detractors, the latter of which was weighed down by Next Fifteen Communications. At the country level, Fund holdings in most European countries, including the U.K., France, Italy, Spain and Germany, contributed measurably. Negative performance was recorded in South Africa, Norway, Thailand, India, Singapore and Peru.

Accent Group, SEB SA and Jumbo SA each had gains in excess of 30% for the quarter, bolstering Consumer Discretionary results. Australia's footwear company, Accent, had a strong trading report on resilient purchasing power among its young consumer base. French small appliance manufacturer, SEB, offered higher margin guidance for 2023. In Industrials, Mexican airport holdings recovered strongly as vacation travel resumed to local hotspots. Fullcast Holdings Co. dampened Industrial results, as the temp staffing company expected lower 2023 demand relative to 2022 COVID-related demand that will not repeat. In Energy, SOL Group reported robust full year 2022 results, as its technical gas and home care divisions grew markedly. Open Text Corp. had double-digit returns for the quarter, feeding IT sector results. Market skepticism originally surrounded Open Text's acquisition of U.K.-based Micro Focus. By February 2023, the deal closed and OpenText announced robust quarterly earnings, with strong cloud bookings and revenue.

In Financials, Toronto-Dominion Bank reported lumpy quarterly results, with strong U.S. retail net income and Canadian personal/commercial banking, but decreases in wealth management, insurance and wholesale banking income. Nearly 40% of TD's business is in the U.S.; as a result, TD suffered along with its U.S.-based counterparts, reeling from the recent SVB and crypto bank failures. Canada's goeasy was down when the federal government capped the annual interest rate on loans at 35% from the previously allowable 47%. Loan loss provisions at Nordic banks are set to climb in 2023, as rising interest rates hurt commercial real estate exposure. Both Sparebanken Vest and Sparebank Nord-Norge fell on this expectation.

### **Portfolio Changes**

The Fund sold British bakery chain Greggs PLC and Italian water pump manufacturer, Interpump Group, as both reached Polaris' upper valuation limits. VIB Vermoegen was exited on concerns of warehouse oversupply in the German commercial real estate market. Capital was reallocated to purchase Sony Corp., the Japanese supplier of electronic products (TVs, music, video gaming); U.K. based packaging/paper producer, Mondi Group; and Canadian Tire, one of the oldest and largest general stores in Canada.

### Outlook

Markets have remained remarkably resilient in the face of rising interest rates, recent banking crises and energy price/output concerns in Europe. The pace of inflation is finally moderating, but central banks will likely continue tightening monetary supply until other metrics (unemployment, labor, consumption) are within an acceptable range. In this context, we expect demand to be challenging in coming quarters. Market volatility bodes well for the Fund, as we are able to add attractively-priced companies with the potential to outperform in an economic recovery.



### TOTAL EXPENSE RATIOS\*

	Gross Expense Ratio*	Net Expense Ratio*
Ordinary Shares	1.63%	1.63%
Institutional Shares	1.34%	1.22%
R6 Shares	1.29%	1.29%

\* Per Prospectus dated August 1, 2022, as amended. Reflects all fee waivers and expense reimbursements currently in effect. Fee waivers and expense reimbursements may not be amended, rescinded or terminated before July 31, 2023 without the consent of the Fund's Trustees.

### A WORD ABOUT RISK

Investing in foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, can be more volatile than the U.S. market due to increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market or economic developments and can perform differently than the U.S. market.

The Fund is non-diversified, meaning it may concentrate its assets in fewer individual holdings than a diversified fund. Therefore, the Fund is more exposed to individual stock volatility than diversified funds. As a result, a decline in the value of the securities of one issuer could have a significant negative effect on the Fund. The Fund may have significant investments in one or more specific industry sectors, subjecting it to risks greater than general market risk. For example, adverse news from just one or two companies in a particular industry can hurt the prices of all stocks in that industry.

Investment Products

■ Not FDIC insured ■ May lose value ■ No bank guarantee

# PEAR TREE FUNDS

55 Old Bedford Road Suite 202 Lincoln, MA 01773 www.peartreefunds.com

2027-00-0423
© 2022 U.S. Boston Capital Corporation
Distributor of Pear Tree Funds, Member FINRA/SIPC

# PEAR TREE POLARIS INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS

as of March 31, 2023 (The portfolio is actively managed. Holdings and weightings are subject to change daily.)

#### **Top Ten Holdings**

Percentage of total net assets	<b>21.5</b> %
D'Ieteren S.A.	2.8%
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	2.4%
United Overseas Bank Limited	2.3%
Bravida Holding AB	2.1%
Neurones S.A.	2.1%
Zhejiang Supor Co.	2.0%
TISCO Financial Group	2.0%
Toronto-Dominion Bank	2.0%
SOL SpA	1.9%
Accent Group Limited	1.9%

The companies mentioned in the commentary on page one have the following percentage of total net assets as of 03/31/2023:

Sparebank Nord-Norge	1.8%
SEB SA	1.7%
Sparebanken Vest	1.6%
Fullcast Holdings Co.	1.5%
goeasy	1.5%
Jumbo	1.4%
Mondi Group	1.4%
Open Text Corporation	1.3%
Next Fifteen Communications	1.2%
Sony Corporation	0.8%
Canadian Tire	0.8%

### **Performance**

as of March 31, 2023

### **Average Annual Total Returns at Net Asset Value**

	Unannualized		Annualized					
	Q1	Calendar YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
<b>Ordinary Shares</b>	9.06%	9.06%	(6.69%)	18.74%	_	_	7.28%	01/30/2019
Institutional Shares	9.05%	9.05%	(6.32%)	19.19%	_	_	7.71%	01/30/2019
R6 Shares	9.06%	9.06%	(6.30%)	19.18%	_	_	7.71%	01/30/2019
MSCI ACWI ex USA1	7.00%	7.00%	(4.57%)	12.32%	_	_	5.18%	_

<sup>1</sup>The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the United States) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 2,262 constituents as of 03/31/2023, the index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity set outside the United States. You cannot invest directly in an index. For comparative performance purposes, the beginning date of the Index is 01/30/2019. The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index is maintained by MSCI Inc.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. For the most recent month-end performance, visit the Fund's website at www.peartreefunds.com.

For information about the Pear Tree Polaris International Opportunities Fund, obtain the Fund's prospectus by calling (800) 326-2151 or visiting www.peartreefunds.com. Before investing carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.