





**UCITS V** 

**Apuano Foundation China Fund** 

08<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 First Quarter 2023 Call



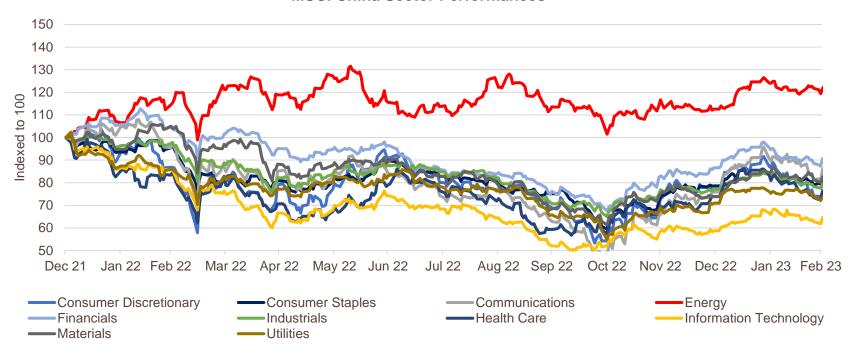


- MARKET REVIEW
- PERFORMANCE REVIEW
- 3 C'S APUANO FOUNDATION CHINA
- MARKET OUTLOOK
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- China indexes experienced drawdowns in 2022 due to lockdowns, property market risks and political uncertainties, but rebounded towards year end. 2022 returns for indexes were -27.8% / -15.5% / -23.6% for CSI 300 / Hang Seng Index / MSCI China
- China indices continued their strong performances in January, but suffered in February due to extended expectations of economic recovery as well as global headwinds

#### **MSCI China Sector Performances**





## Performance Review

- Apuano Foundation China Fund recorded 4.3% return YTD, outperforming the 3.7% / 1.2% / 1.2% returns of CSI
   300 / Hang Seng Index / MSCI China in USD terms
- Since inception, the Fund achieved 0.4% return, outperforming the 0.4% / -29.3% / -24.0% returns of CSI 300 / Hang
   Seng Index / MSCI China

### **Apuano Foundation China Fund vs Indexes**





# Apuano Foundation China Fund – 3C

**CAPTURE** Strong upside capture whilst limiting downside CAPITAL Value investing drives disciplined capital allocation CONTROL 'Quantamental' model controls portfolio risks



# Capture – Up & Downside

The Fund's upside outperformance comes in 2 parts:

- 1. Strong upside capture vs low downside capture, especially on a net exposure-adjusted basis
- 2. Higher % of positive months, lower % of negative months

|                                | Apuano Foundation<br>China Fund | Hang Seng Index |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Upside Capture                 | 60.5%                           | -               |
| Beta-adjusted Upside Capture   | 127.4%                          | -               |
| % of Positive Days             | 54%                             | 49%             |
| Downside Capture               | 30.1%                           | -               |
| Beta-adjusted Downside Capture | 66.9%                           | -               |
| % of Negative Days             | 46%                             | 51%             |

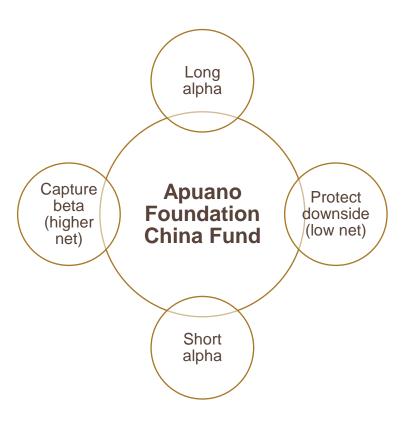


# Capture – Strategy Tailored for China

- China indices have largely been flat since 2007, but have endured many up and downs
- Index returns of greater than +/- 20% happens 1 out of every 2 years

| Performance<br>(%) | 2023<br>YTD | 2022   | 2021   | 2020  | 2019  | 2018   | 2017  | 2016 |
|--------------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| MSCI China         | 12.3%       | -23.5% | -22.4% | 26.7% | 20.4% | -20.3% | 52.3% | 1.4% |

| Performance (%) | 2015   | 2014 | 2013 | 2012  | 2011   | 2010 | 2009  | 2008   | 2007  |
|-----------------|--------|------|------|-------|--------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| MSCI China      | -10.1% | 4.7% | 0.4% | 18.7% | -20.4% | 2.6% | 58.9% | -52.2% | 63.5% |





## 1. Pioneers of adopting value investing in China

 CIO Michael Liang was one of the pioneers of value investing in HK, brought over from his experiences at Macquarie Bank, Australia

## 2. Value investing in the past decade

- · Past decade was difficult for value investing as money was free
- Value investors pushed away as new wave of investors chased growth and duration

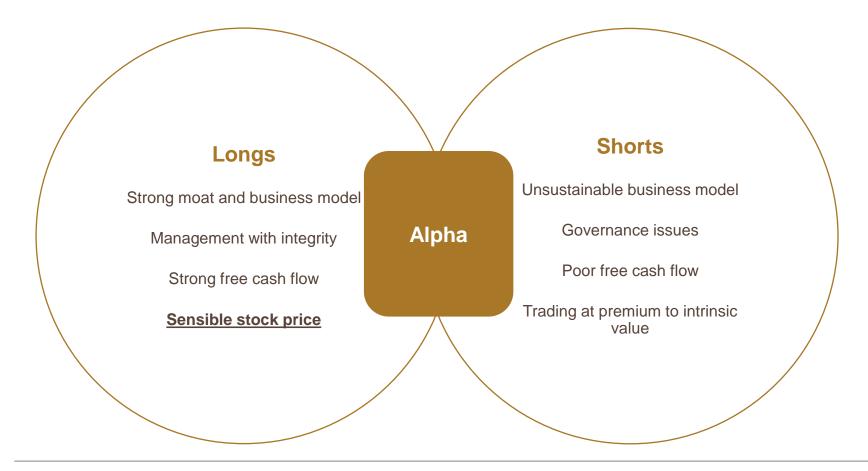
## 3. Interest rates returning to normalcy

- Interest rates unlikely to go back to zero-bound
- Successful track record during these type of periods is key



# Capital – Bottom Up Analysis

- Top holdings are potential multi-baggers, often underfollowed and out of consensus
- Private equity-like approach ensures differentiation and discipline

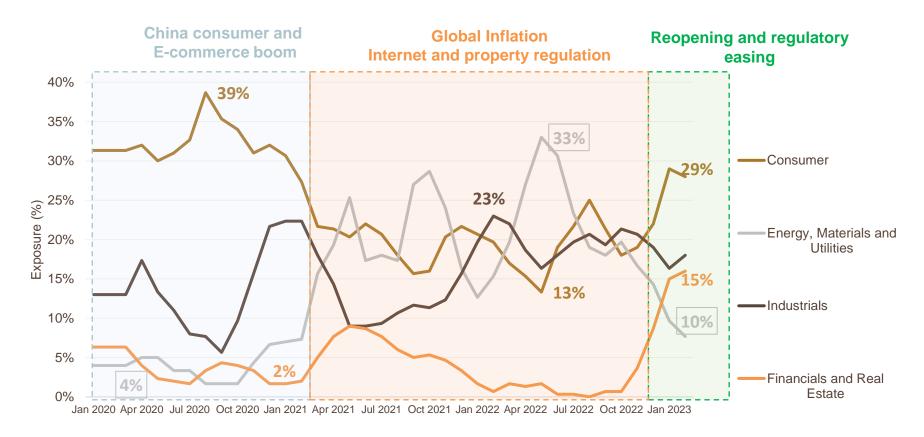




## Capital – Flexible Sector Allocation

CIO oversees 4 specialist analysts – dedicated coverage in consumer, cyclicals, technology and health care

## **Historical Long Sector Allocation**





# Capital - Investment Themes

"The choice is not between value and growth, but between value today and value tomorrow." - Howard Marks



**Consumer Upgrade** 



**Advanced Manufacturing** 



**Renewable Energy** 



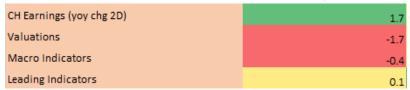
**Resource Self-Sufficiency** 



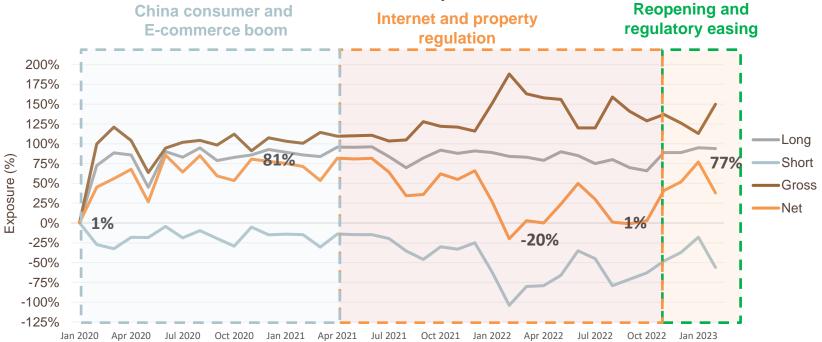
## Control – 'Quantamental' Model

- Consistently repeatable top-down model that calculates shorts/hedging levels
- Michael Liang's commodities/materials experience drives top-down understanding of China

## 'Quantamental' Model input categories



## **Historical Net Exposure**

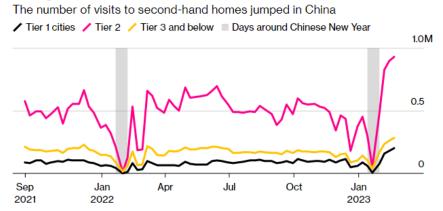




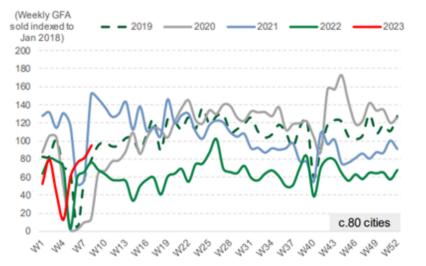
### **Property Market Recovery**

- Property sector is the bedrock of the Chinese economy at 29% of GDP
- Property market has already showed signs of recovery
- We expect continued monetary and fiscal support

#### **Rising Interest**



## Exhibit 1: Primary GFA sold on average was +17% wow and +25% yoy amongst c.80 cities Average weekly volume of primary property sales



Source: CREIS, Goldman Sachs Gao Hua Securities Research

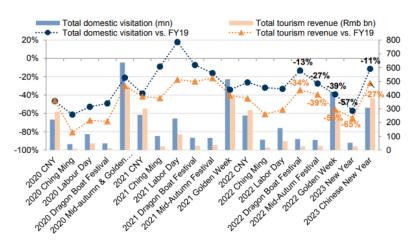


### **China Reopening**

- China has completely reopened
- Pent up demand evident, especially in domestic services industries

## Exhibit 5: During this 7-day CNY holiday, a total of 308mn people traveled domestically in mainland China (89% of 2019 level)

Total domestic trips and tourism revenue during public holidays



### China hotel RevPAR weekly trend





### **Resource Self-sufficiency**

We expect policy tailwind and continued investment in sectors that are critical for resource self-sufficiency

Exhibit 28: China import of major agriculture products per annum = 2000-2023E, and LT outlook and scenarios

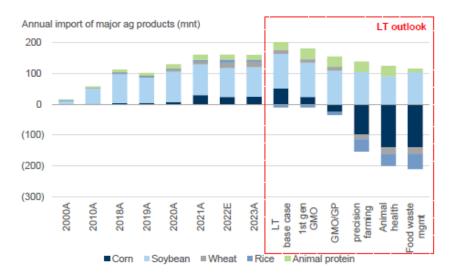
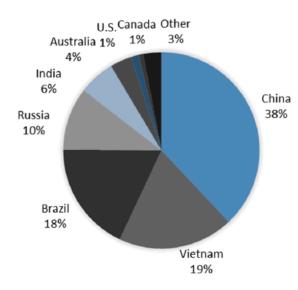


Figure 25: Global Rare Earth Reserves
Tonnes



Source: USGS



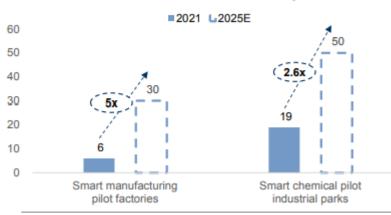
#### **Advance Manufacturing and Renewable Energy**

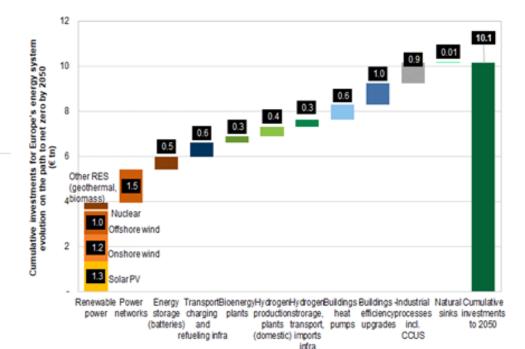
China is entering a new wave of industrial revolution – still in the early stages of penetration

# Numerical control penetration in key processes of major industrial enterprises



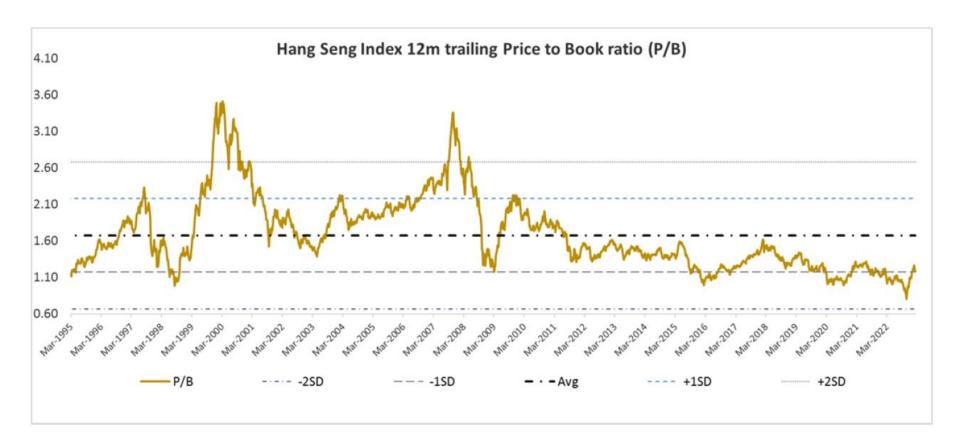
### Smart factories & industrial parks







Even with the recent rally, Hang Seng index valuation still at historically low levels



Source: FAM as at 31 Jan 2023



## Founder and CIO: Michael Liang



- Leader in Asia Hedge Fund Space, founded Foundation in 2006 when China hedge funds were still at a nascent stage
- Foundation remains one of the longest standing China hedge funds
- <u>Differentiated industry knowledge</u>, experience in Australia during commodities boom, covered industrials during Asia Financial Crisis and China WTO cycle
- Cycles take place in every industry, commodities/ materials experience drives top-down understanding of China

1997 – 1998 Societe Generale Securities Hong Kong Vice President APAC industrials 2000 – 2003 DBS Vickers Securities Hong Kong Vice President China industrials

#### **Education and Qualifications**

- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- EMBA, Peking University
- BA Economics, Renmin University of China
- BA Economics, Wollongong University, Australia

**2006 – Present Foundation Asset Management**Hong Kong
Founder & CIO



1994 – 1997 Macquarie Bank Australia Analyst Australian equity research - base metals

1998 – 2000
Daiwa Securities Capital Markets
Hong Kong
Vice President
China industrials

2003 – 2006
United Overseas Bank
Hong Kong
Director
Advisor to Asian families and global investors





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