# Fairtree Equity Market Neutral FR QI Hedge Fund

Minimum Disclosure Document - Class 1

31 January 2025

# Investment Objective

The objective of the fund is to create consistent long-term wealth for investors irrespective of market direction.

#### Fund Profile

The portfolio typically spans all South African equity sectors, with the majority of exposure being in the top 100 listed equities on the JSE, by market capitalisation. Our portfolio construction approach assigns exposures into different risk buckets; namely low risk intra-sector pairs, cross-sector pairs, themes and absolute value. Intra-sector pairs typically dominate the portfolio and position sizes rarely exceed 10%. Leverage rarely exceeds 2.5 times and net exposure, once beta adjusted is generally close to zero. The fund aims to return Cash plus 5 - 7% annually, on a rolling 3 year basis.

# Cumulative Performance Since Inception



The investment performance is for illustrative purposes only; the investment performance is calculated by taking the actual initial fees and all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown; assuming income is reinvested on the reinvestment date.

The above benchmark (s) are for comparison purposes with the fund's performance. The fund does not follow the benchmark (s)

# Return Analysis (Annualised)

	Fund	JIBAR 3M		
1 Year	14.20%	8.47%		
3 Years	14.47%	7.57%		
5 Years	9.61%	6.14%		
10 Years	8.57%	6.66%		
Since Inception	11.03%	7.17%		

All performance figures are net of fees.

# Risk Analysis

	Fund	JIBAR 3M
Sharpe Ratio	0.55	n/a
Sortino Ratio	0.90	n/a
Standard Deviation	6.89	0.54
Best Month	8.17	1.03
Worst Month	-12.85	0.28
Highest Rolling 12 Months	34.02	12.55
Lowest Rolling 12 Months	-13.22	3.63
Largest Cumulative Drawdown	-17.41%	n/a
% Positive Months (Since Incept.)	73.33%	n/a
Correlation (Monthly)	0.07	
Value at Risk (VaR) 95%	3.87%	

# **Fund Details**

Risk Profile: Low-Medium

Portfolio Manager: Deon Botha and David Rossouw

Fund size: R 409.28 m NAV Price (as at month end): 9.898.84 Number of Units: 217,858.69 JSE Code: FTEQMN ISIN Number: ZAE000259081 November 2003 Inception Date: CISCA Inception Date: November 2016

ASISA Classification: Qualified Investor Hedge Fund - South

African - Long/Short Equity -

Market Neutral

Hurdle/Benchmark: 3 month JIBAR Minimum Investment: R 1000 000 Lump sum \*Service Fee: 1.33% (excl VAT)

\*Includes Base fee/Investment Management Fee

of 1.00%

Performance fee (uncapped): 20% of the total performance above the high water mark, subject to a hurdle

rate of 3 months JIBAR (excl. VAT).

# Cost Ratios (incl. VAT)

7.52% Total Expense Ratio (TER%): Performance Fee (PF) Included in TER:5.77% Transactions Costs Ratio (TC%): \*\* Total Investment Charges (TIC%): 7.69%

\* Total Investment Charges (TIC%) = TER (%) + TC (%)
\*\* TIC Fees are calculated in respect of the 12 months up to and including September 2024

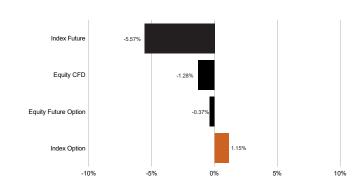
# Income Distribution

31 December 2024 33263.86054 cents per unit (cpu)

# Investment Manager contact details

+27 86 176 0760

# Asset Allocation





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31 January 2025

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2003											0.05%	2.25%	2.30%
2004	1.00%	1.44%	2.03%	0.28%	0.21%	0.39%	0.23%	0.80%	1.33%	0.46%	1.86%	3.29%	14.11%
2005	2.52%	3.00%	3.78%	0.65%	3.08%	0.75%	4.19%	2.00%	3.26%	0.60%	2.60%	3.28%	34.01%
2006	1.48%	-0.19%	2.95%	2.46%	-1.30%	2.60%	2.91%	0.01%	-0.98%	1.41%	-0.07%	1.80%	13.76%
2007	1.25%	-0.27%	2.38%	0.75%	0.02%	2.41%	2.15%	0.42%	-0.54%	1.15%	0.22%	1.37%	11.86%
2008	1.97%	4.98%	2.85%	2.32%	1.29%	-0.21%	-0.65%	-0.19%	0.85%	0.72%	0.27%	4.01%	19.60%
2009	2.71%	1.23%	0.46%	1.77%	2.56%	1.53%	2.13%	1.76%	-0.44%	1.11%	-0.45%	1.21%	16.66%
2010	-2.29%	1.66%	0.70%	1.00%	-0.83%	0.00%	2.20%	1.84%	0.45%	-0.27%	-1.01%	0.60%	4.03%
2011	1.94%	2.23%	1.26%	1.18%	0.44%	-1.10%	-0.95%	0.66%	0.07%	-0.14%	3.10%	1.42%	10.49%
2012	0.46%	1.78%	0.54%	0.03%	-0.52%	-1.37%	-1.15%	0.57%	-0.11%	0.70%	1.57%	0.31%	2.79%
2013	1.61%	0.60%	1.08%	1.86%	0.18%	0.14%	2.15%	0.55%	0.97%	2.06%	0.48%	2.30%	14.88%
2014	-0.63%	3.55%	0.80%	-1.11%	0.93%	-0.23%	0.22%	-1.30%	2.06%	0.50%	-0.51%	1.73%	6.06%
2015	1.56%	4.42%	1.90%	1.12%	-1.73%	1.60%	1.34%	0.80%	0.26%	1.95%	0.89%	0.68%	15.73%
2016	-0.16%	-1.80%	0.67%	0.92%	3.12%	-0.32%	1.57%	1.66%	-0.09%	0.32%	0.59%	1.28%	7.95%
2017	1.62%	-2.26%	0.90%	3.12%	1.25%	-0.66%	0.24%	-0.96%	0.83%	1.87%	-4.26%	-5.40%	-4.00%
2018	-1.68%	4.61%	-2.22%	1.67%	2.57%	1.44%	2.52%	0.25%	1.68%	-0.87%	0.56%	0.95%	11.88%
2019	2.11%	1.71%	-0.11%	0.73%	-1.32%	-0.04%	0.63%	0.57%	1.79%	-0.14%	0.27%	2.52%	9.01%
2020	-0.15%	-5.08%	-12.85%	8.17%	4.33%	-1.39%	-1.08%	0.54%	-3.28%	-2.01%	7.64%	1.57%	-5.26%
2021	1.36%	2.33%	4.10%	-1.43%	-0.16%	-1.00%	2.48%	0.15%	0.70%	1.32%	-0.22%	0.69%	10.67%
2022	0.46%	2.22%	0.58%	3.24%	-0.24%	-0.33%	1.97%	1.85%	1.94%	3.01%	-3.04%	-0.16%	11.94%
2023	2.02%	-0.29%	5.51%	3.18%	2.24%	-0.99%	-0.92%	5.21%	-1.84%	-0.44%	6.13%	-2.08%	18.68%
2024	-0.69%	0.51%	3.63%	3.03%	0.79%	3.33%	0.28%	4.00%	1.80%	-2.97%	0.20%	0.72%	15.41%
2025	-1.72%												-1.72%

\*The inception date for the portfolio is 1 November 2003. The historical performance figures until the end of 31 October 2016 reflect performance achieved prior to CISCA regulation. The portfolio has been transitioned under CISCA regulations on 1 November 2016 and has since been managed as a regulated product. The annualized total return is the average return earned by an investment each year over a given time period, since date of the launch of the fund. Actual annual figures are available from the manager on request. The highest and lowest 1 year returns represent the highest and lowest actual returns achieved during a 12 month rolling period year since the original launch date of the portfolio. The performance figures given show the yield on a Net Asset value ("NAV") basis. The yield figure is not a forecast. Performance is not guaranteed and investors should not accept it as representing expected future performance. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, time of entry/actual investment date, date of reinvestment, and dividends withholding tax. Performance is calculated for a lump sum investment on a Net Asset Value basis. The performance figures are reported net of fees with income reinvested

# Risk Profile

Risk Level Low Low-Medium Medium Medium-High High

The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may change over time. The lowest category does not mean the investment is risk free. There may be other special areas of risk relating to the investment including liquidity risk, credit risk, market risk, and settlement risk. FundRock Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd, ("the manager"), and the investment manager do not render financial advice. Our risk indicator does not imply that the portfolio is suitable for all types of investors You are advised to consult your financial adviser.

# Market Commentary

January saw the continuation of Trump's trade policies, with renewed tariffs and heightened trade uncertainty weighing on risk sentiment, keeping the USD strong and exerting pressure on emerging markets (EM). The Federal Reserve (Fed) paused rate cuts, citing solid US economic data and stickier inflation, while closely monitoring the impact of Trump's policies. In contrast, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) gave a hawkish rate cut, maintaining a wide real rate differential. The global AI race faced disruption when Chinese company DeepSeek released a competitive AI model at a fraction of the cost of its US counterparts. This development triggered a reassessment of US exceptionalism and raised questions about AI investment returns. Positively, the lower cost barriers could accelerate AI adoption and drive productivity gains globally.

Resources outperformed, led by gold, which continued its strong run as commodity traders front-ran potential US tariffs across multiple commodities. Oil remained steady despite Trump's calls for "drill, baby, drill" and for OPEC to lower prices, as demand remained resilient.

Locally, Eskom's unexpected loadshedding announcement on the final day of the month ended a nearly year-long stretch of uninterrupted power supply, adding to the negative sentiment around SA Inc. The signing of the land expropriation bill further increased political uncertainty, weighing on South African assets and raising concerns about the sustainability of the Government of National Unity (GNU). The JSE returns (+2%) were driven by resources (+16%), while retailers (-12%) struggled as December sales updates disappointed following strong November sales indications from the retailers. Mr Price (-15%), TFG (-15%), and Truworths (-17%) were among the worst performers. Manufacturing PMI was another disappointment, coming in at 46.1 vs. the expected 48.1, raising fresh concerns about South Africa's accelerating de-industrialisation and the need for urgent government intervention.

# Notable corporate developments

Tencent was added to the US 1260H "military blacklist", negatively impacting Prosus (-4%) and the Fund's performance. While this designation is not as restrictive as other US security lists, it nonetheless weighed on sentiment. Tencent has engaged with US authorities to challenge the listing and could seek legal action, with precedents for successful appeals. Encouragingly, Tencent's WeChat was removed from a separate US trademark counterfeiting list, suggesting it is not being explicitly targeted. Additionally, Prosus' US\$1.7bn acquisition of Despegar raised further questions about capital allocation.

Life Healthcare (+0.3%) sold its LMI stake for US\$350m. Tiger Brands (-2%) exited its 24.38% stake in Carozzi for US\$240m. MTN (+25%) secured approval for a price increase of up to 50% in Nigeria. Sasol (+4%) disappointed with its production update but positively accelerated its destoning project ahead of guidance to improve mining operations. The UK Treasury backed the motor finance industry, strengthening the defence for UK lenders in their FCA dispute, which was positive for FirstRand (+0.4%). British American Tobacco (+9%) gained as the US scrapped potential menthol cigarette bans.

Looking ahead, the Fund remains focused on navigating an increasingly complex macroeconomic landscape. While domestic rate cuts and fiscal improvements provide some optimism, a strong USD, US protectionist policies, and heightened local political risks continue to challenge EM assets. We expect attractive relative value opportunities to emerge in current market conditions.

Please Note: The above commentary is based on reasonable assumptions and is not guaranteed to occur,





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Net Asset Value (NAV) :

Means net asset value, which is the total market value of all assets in a portfolio including any income accruals and less and deductible expenses such as audit

fees, brokerage and service fees

**Highest & Lowest Return:** 

Annualised Return:

Is the weighted average compound growth rate over the performance period measured. The highest and lowest rolling twelve-month performance of the portfolio since inception.

Total Expense Ratio (TER):

Reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication

of future TER's.

Transaction Costs (TC):

Is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction costs are a necessary

cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns.

**Total Investment Charges** (TIC):

Should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of Fund, investment

decisions of the investment manager

Total Investment Charges (TIC%):

= TER (%) + TC (%): The Total Investment Charges (TIC), the TER + the TC, is the percentage of the net asset value of the class of the Financial Product

incurred as costs relating to the investment of the Financial Product. It should be noted that a TIC is the sum of two calculated ratios (TER+TC).

Standard Deviation : The deviation of the return of the portfolio relative to its average.

Drawdown: The greatest peak to trough loss until a new peak is reached.

Sharpe Ratio: The ratio of excess return over the risk-free rate divided by the total volatility of the portfolio. Sortino Ratio: The ratio of excess return over the risk-free rate divided by the downside deviation of the portfolio.

A number between -1 and 1 indicating the similarity of the dispersion of returns between the portfolio and another asset or index with 1 being highly correlated, Correlation:

-1 highly negatively correlated and 0 uncorrelated.

Value at risk is the minimum loss percentage that can be expected over a specified time period at a predetermined confidence level.

The use of securities, including derivative instruments, short positions or borrowed capital to increase the exposure beyond the capital employed to an

investment.

#### Fund Risk

Leverage Risk: Derivative Risk:

Volatility Risk:

Value at Risk (VaR):

Leverage/Gearing:

The Fund borrows additional funds, trades on margin or performs short sale trades to amplify investment decisions. This means that the volatility of a hedge

fund portfolio can be many times that of the underlying investments due to leverage on a fund.

Derivative positions are financial instruments that derive their value from an underlying asset. Derivatives are exposed to implicit leverage which could result in

magnified gains and/or losses on the portfolio.

Counterparty Credit Risk:

Counterparty risk is a type of credit risk and is the risk of default by the counterparty associated with trading derivative contracts. An example of counterparty credit risk is margin or collateral held with a prime broker

Volatility refers to uncertainty and risk related to size of change of an instrument or portfolio. It is a statistical measure of the dispersion of returns for a given security or market index. Volatility is proportional to the directional exposure of a portfolio and is measured by Value at risk (VaR) which is a statistical technique used to measure and quantify the level of volatility.

Concentration and Sector

A large proportion of total assets invested in specific assets, sectors or regions. Concentrated positions or concentrated sectors in a portfolio will material impact the returns of the portfolio more so than diversified portfolios.

Correlation Risk: A measure that determines how assets move in relation to each other. Correlation risk arises when the correlation between asset-classes change. Correlation risk also arises when the correlation within an asset-class changes. Examples of correlation within asset classes include equity pairs trading, fixed income curve

trading and commodities pairs trading.

Equity Risk: Applies to investment in shares or derivatives based on shares. The market price of shares varies depending on supply and demand of the shares. Equity risk is the risk of loss due to the drop in the market price of shares. Equity risk can either be systematic risk which is risk to the entire market based on political and

economic indicators or unsystematic risk which is company specific and includes risk relating to company profits, future prospects and general consensus on the company or sector.

# Portfolio Valuation & Transaction Cut - Off

Portfolios are valued monthly. The cut off time for processing investment subscriptions is 10:00am on the last business day of the month prior to enable processing for investment on the first business day of the next month. Redemptions are subject to one calendar months notice.

# Total Expense Ratio

A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER may not necessarily be an accurate indication of future TER's. Transaction Costs are a necessary cost in administering the financial product and impacts financial product returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of financial product, the investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

# **Mandatory Disclosures**

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