Lazard Rathmore Alternative Fund (UCITS)

December 2019
Fact Sheet

A Acc EUR Hedged Share Class

Performance Data

(%; net of fees; through 31 December 2019)

	1 Month	YTD
Lazard Rathmore Alternative Fund (A Acc EUR Hedged Share class)	0.2	2.8

The performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Source: Lazard Asset Management

Monthly Performance Data

(%; net of fees; since inception, A Acc EUR Hedged share class)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2019	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.2	-0.1	0.6	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2	0.2	2.8
2018					-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.9	0.2	-0.7	-1.8

The performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Source: Lazard Asset Management

Portfolio Statistics

130.9%
-72.0%
1.3
0.6
0.4%
-0.2%
-0.9 bps
1.2 years
71
4.0%
2.0%
466 bps
466 bps
0.42%
72.1%
-68.8%
0.0%
0.0%

Credit Breakdown by Rating (%)2

	Net Market Value (NMV)
AAA to BBB	0.0
BB to B	4.1
CCC to C	0.0
NR	95.9

Portfolio Composition by Substrategy (%)^{2, 13}

	Long Market Value (LMV/NAV)	Net Market Value (NMV/NAV)
Credit	33.1	50.4
Special Situations	18.6	14.7
Volatility	48.3	35.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Portfolio Composition by Security Type (%)^{2, 13}

	Long Market Value (LMV/NAV)	Short Market Value (SMV/NAV)
Bonds	129.5	-0.3
Equity	1.4	-71.6
Preferreds	0.0	0.0

Portfolio Composition by Market Cap (%)

	Net Market Value (NMV)
Small Cap (<\$2bn)	44.4
Mid Cap (\$2bn – \$10bn)	45.9
Large Cap (\$10bn – \$50bn)	8.7
Mega Cap (> \$50bn)	1.0



Top Five Positions (%)2,13,14

	Long Market Value (LMV)
Sea Ltd 2.25%	4.3
MongoDB Inc 0.75%	3.6
Twilio 0.25%	3.1
Nuvasive 2.25%	2.9
Wayfair 0.375%	2.6

Top Five Positions (%)2,13,14

	Net Market Value (NMV)
Allscripts Healthcare 1.25%	4.1
Cardtronics 1.0%	3.2
Wayfair 0.375%	2.8
Tricon Capital Group 5.75%	2.7
Cemex 3.72%	2.7

Portfolio Composition by Sector (%)

	Long Market Value (LMV/NAV)	Short Market Value (SMV/NAV)	Net Market Value (NMV/NAV)
Health Care	34.9	-17.6	17.3
Information Technology	42.5	-26.8	15.7
Consumer Discretionary	16.7	-5.7	11.0
Financials	7.2	-3.1	4.1
Industrials	5.3	-2.6	2.7
Materials	6.0	-3.5	2.5
Real Estate	3.7	-1.4	2.3
Consumer Staples	3.2	-1.3	1.9
Communication Services	10.6	-9.9	0.7
Energy	8.0	-0.1	0.7
Macro Equity Risk Hedge	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	130.9	-72.0	58.9

Geographic Composition (%)15

	(NMV)
North America	91.5
Rest of the World	8.5

Commentary

Market Review

Improving economic data and progress on a U.S./China trade deal, led equities higher this month, as the S&P 500 Index rose +2.86%, paced largely by trade sensitive sectors, including semiconductors, energy as well as healthcare. Defensive stocks, including real estate, lagged the broader market. Economic data was again mixed and was not a driver of asset returns. US nonfarm payrolls rose a greater than expected +266k, highlighting the resiliency of the US economy. European manufacturing PMIs fell in December, but continued to suggest a bottoming of economic activity. Central bank meetings, both in the US and Europe, were uneventful, with both the US Federal Reserve Bank (the "Fed") and the European Central Bank keeping benchmark interest rates unchanged. Commentary from Fed Chairman Powell skewed dovish however, as he suggested the Fed would keep interest rates lower for longer to boost inflation above its 2% target.

The risk-on sentiment was reflected in other variables, as interest rates rose with the 10-year US treasury yield rising to 1.92%. Oil hit a 3-month high (above \$61), while copper hit a 7-month high of \$286.45. Credit tightened with the ICE BofA US High Yield Index falling from 406 basis points ("bps") to 354 bps. Even with stocks higher, the CBOE Volatility Index moved higher, as did gold. Given supportive monetary policy, the initial US/China agreement (details were lacking but new tariffs were not imposed on Dec 15th), and a now definitive UK general election vote, the potential for negative macro shocks appears to have fallen in the near term. However, the recent appreciation of equities, to ~18.5x 2020 estimates, leaves little room for error. Escalating geopolitical risks will certainly test investor's confidence, just a few days into the new year. We believe the portfolio remains well hedged from an equity perspective.

Convertible bonds were generally better to buy on the month with outperformance in higher-beta paper, particularly distressed names and those in the energy sector. As it relates to the primary market, twelve new deals priced in December, yielding \$3.59 billion in proceeds. For the year, US issuance hit a record with more than \$58 billion of new paper. Deals of note this month included a GBP 600 million offering from UK internet retailer Ocado PLC (OCDO LN). The OCDO bond priced with a 0.875% coupon and 45% premium, and was well received by investors initially, given the high growth prospects for the company, and relative value of the notes, as compared to other European convertibles. A \$900 million offering from optical component firm Lumentum Holdings (LITE) also came to market and priced with a 0.5% coupon and 42.5% premium. Given the 7-year tenor of and marginal terms, the offering traded near the offering price in the secondary market. Channel checks continue to suggest to us that the primary market will remain active into 2020.

Portfolio Review

Performance

Pacing returns in December were the credit and volatility basis, the latter of which rebounded after several weeks of underperformance. Special situations contributed positively as well, as selected issuers took advantage of a significant appreciation in their respective market caps and addresses their funding needs. PDL BioPharma Inc (PDLI), for example, paid bondholders, including the strategy, an 8.5 point premium to redeem their 2.75% convertible notes due 2024, as part of a \$200 million buyback of stock and convertibles. Also benefiting the special situations category was Caesars (CZR), which revised the terms of its initial consent offer, by effectively increasing it 10-fold from the original 1/4 point offering initially made to holders. Offsetting some of the gains were macro hedges, that were a modest detractor again, largely owing to theta decay and cannabis names were also heavy into yearend as investors repositioned for 2020.

In Closing

Overall, the portfolio remains largely delta-neutral. Recognizing certain risk/return sets have improved as of late, financing terms have improved, and volatility is at its lowest levels in many instances, we have added to positions selectively, and are likely to continue to do so in coming weeks. Earnings season kicks off in approximately three weeks, which should likely be accompanied by an uptick in equity volatility broadly, as has been the case in recent periods.

Share Classes Information

Share Classes information									
Share Classes	Management Fee (%)	Performance Fee (%)	ISIN	Bloomberg Ticker	SEDOL				
A Acc CHF Hedged	1.25	20	IE00BG1V1550	LAZAACH ID	BG1V155				
A Acc EUR Hedged	1.25	20	IE00BG1V1C27	LAZAAEH ID	BG1V1C2				
A Acc GBP Hedged	1.25	20	IE00BG1V1B10	LAZAAGH ID	BG1V1B1				
A Acc USD	1.25	20	IE00BG1V1444	LAZAAUH ID	BG1V144				
BP Acc USD	2.50	20	IE00BFZ4RZ57	LAZRBPU ID	BFZ4RZ5				
BP Acc EUR Hedged	2.50	20	IE00BFZ4RX34	LAZRBPE ID	BFZ4RX3				
C Acc EUR Hedged	1.25	20	IE00BFZ4RW27	LAZRCEH ID	BFZ4RW2				
C Acc USD	1.25	20	IE00BFZ4RY41	LAZRCAU ID	BFZ4RY4				
S Acc USD	1.00	20	IE00BJXC5N38	LAZRASU ID	BJXC5N3				
S Acc GBP Hedged	1.00	20	IE00BKF2RX20	LAZRASH ID	BKF2RX2				
S Acc EUR Hedged	1.00	20	n/a	n/a	n/a				
S Acc CHF Hedged	1.00	20	n/a	n/a	n/a				
S Acc JPY Hedged	1.00	20	n/a	n/a	n/a				

Investment Profile

The Lazard Rathmore Alternative Fund seeks absolute returns through convertible arbitrage and event-driven investing. The Fund aims to identify opportunities through proprietary screening tools, quantitative analysis, and robust fundamental research.

Fund Information

Fund Manager	Sean H. Reynolds
Launch Date	1 May 2018
NAV Calculation	Daily
Fund Size	US\$297.2m

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Notes

- 1 Annualized volatility is calculated based on daily returns since inception
- 2 Statistics are based on unaudited and unreconciled information calculated by the risk team as of 31 December 2019, taking into account month-end redemptions. Allocations are subject to change.
- 3 Vega exposure is measured as a 1 volatility point change in the implied volatility of the investments. The result is quoted as a percentage of NAV.
- 4 Rho is measured as the percentage change in NAV for a 10 bp change in interest rates.
- 5 CS01 is calculated as loss/gain for the strategy if the credit spreads widen by one basis point. The strategy's position in every issuer is considered net of the long and short positions in that issuer and aggregated across the entire portfolio.
- 6 Duration is the sensitivity of the bond price to a change in interest rates.
- 7 A trading strategy reflects a particular investment thesis. For example, a "credit short dated gamma" strategy is one in which the strategy is long a short-dated convertible bond with a positive gamma profile and simultaneously short the underlying equity of the same issuer. The number of trading strategies shown represent 90% of the strategy's Long Market Value. Incubated strategies account for the remaining 10% of the strategy's Long Market Value.
- 8 YTP/ YTM refers to Yield to Put or Yield to Maturity, excluding securities with default/ distressed status, imminent corporate actions, and bonds trading with negative yields (otherwise defined as volatility trades).

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- 9 Carry is the current yield of the strategy net of financing and stock rebates represented % of capital.
- 10 Average Implied Credit Spread is the credit spread of a bond over LIBOR, taking into account the value of the embedded option.
- 11 Gamma represents the rate of change in a convertible's delta per 1% move in the underlying stock. Options used for hedging purposes are not included in the gamma calculation.
- 12 Delta represents the sensitivity of convertible bonds held in the portfolio to a change in the underlying stock price.
- 13 Based on LMV of each position as a % of total LMV, and absolute NMV of each position as a % of total NMV.
- 14 The securities identified should not be considered a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or sell these securities. It should not be assumed that any investment in these securities was, or will be, profitable. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in the portfolio. These securities do not represent the entire portfolio of an account managed pursuant to the strategy and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings.
- 15 Geographic compositions is calculated as % of NMV and is based on issuer/parent country exposure. North America includes USA and Canada.

Important Information

Published on 13 January 2020.

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