

VanEck Merk Gold Trust
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Free Writing Prospectus

VanEck Merk Gold Trust

Gold's Muted Response Speaks Volumes

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View in Web Browser Gold Monthly Commentary Gold's Muted Response Speaks Volumes Joe Foster, Portfolio Manager/Strategist Key Takeaways Despite market volatility and heightened inflation expectations, both gold and gold stocks declined in February. Gold was hurt by a slightly stronger U.S. dollar and weaker overall commodities prices. Safe haven assets showed little reaction to market volatility indicating that complacency continues to dominate the market. Gold should benefit once investor psychology changes to view volatility as a possible prelude to a bear market and economic downturn. Read now Video Still Shining Bright: Golden Anniversary for VanEck's Gold Strategy Watch Jan van Eck's recent video Conference Call Invitation – Gold Market Update

Joe Foster Dial-in to Listen Live Portfolio Manager/Strategist Add to Calendar Thursday, April 19, 2018 U.S. Toll Free: 1.800.289.0438 11:00 AM (ET) Conference ID: 6275582 Duration: 1 hour This conference call is for financial professionals only and is closed to the public. Investing in Gold with VanEck VanEck International Investors Gold Fund (INIVX) An actively managed portfolio with a over 40 year track record of investing in gold mining companies. Geologist Joe Foster has been a part of the investment team since 1996. VanEck Vectors® Gold Miners ETF (GDX®) and VanEck Vectors® Junior Gold Miners ETF (GDXJ®) offer convenient and cost-effective access to gold mining companies. VanEck® Merk® Gold Trust (OUNZ) offers investors exposure to gold with the ability to take physical delivery of gold if desired. Stay Connected 666 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017 IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE Nothing in this content should be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell shares of any investment in any jurisdiction where the offer or solicitation would be unlawful under the securities laws of such jurisdiction, nor is it intended as investment, tax, financial, or legal advice. Investors should seek such professional advice for their particular situation and jurisdiction. Please note that the information herein represents the opinion of the portfolio manager and these opinions may change at any time and from time to time. Not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice. Historical performance is not indicative of future results; current data may differ from data quoted. Current market conditions may not continue. Non-VanEck proprietary information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed. No part of this material may be reproduced in any form, or referred to in any other publication, without express written permission of VanEck. Index returns are not Fund returns and do not reflect any management fees or brokerage expenses. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

About VanEck International Investors Gold Fund (INIVX): You can lose money by investing in the Fund. Any investment in the Fund should be part of an overall investment program, not a complete program. The Fund is subject to the risks associated with concentrating its assets in the gold industry, which can be significantly affected by international economic, monetary, and political developments. The Fund's overall portfolio may decline in value due to developments specific to the gold industry. The Fund's investments in foreign securities involve risks related to adverse political and economic developments unique to a country or a region, currency fluctuations or controls, and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments or political, economic, or social instability. The Fund is subject to risks associated with investments in debt securities, derivatives, commodity-linked instruments, illiquid securities, asset-backed securities, and small- or mid-cap companies. The Fund is also subject to inflation risk, short-sales risk, market risk, non-diversification risk, leverage risk, credit risk, and counterparty risk.

About VanEck Vectors® Gold Miners ETF (GDX®) and VanEck Vectors® Junior Gold Miners ETF (GDXJ®): An investment in the Funds may be subject to risks which include, among others, competitive pressures, dependency on the price of gold and silver bullion which may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time which may impact smaller companies more so than larger companies, periods of outperformance and underperformance of traditional investments such as bonds and stocks, natural disasters, and elevated risks associated with early stage mining companies such as major expenditures, properties that may not ultimately produce gold or silver and dependency on securing financing and potentially operating at a loss, all of which may adversely affect the Funds. Foreign investments are subject to risks, which include changes in economic and political conditions, foreign currency fluctuations, changes in foreign regulations, and changes in currency exchange rates which may negatively impact the Fund's return. Small- and micro-capitalization companies may be subject to elevated risks. The Fund's assets may be concentrated in a particular sector and may be subject to more risk than investments in a diverse group of sectors.

About VanEck® Merk® Gold Trust: This material must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus for the VanEck Merk Gold Trust (the "Trust"). Before investing, you should carefully consider the Trust's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other information is in the prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by visiting vaneck.com/ounz or calling 800.826.2333. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. The Trust is not an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or a commodity pool for the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act. Shares of the Trust are not subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds. Because shares of the Trust are intended to reflect the price of the gold held in the Trust, the market price of the shares is subject to fluctuations similar to those affecting gold prices. Additionally, shares of the Trust are bought and sold at market price, not at net asset value ("NAV"). Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. The sponsor of the VanEck Merk Gold Trust is Merk Investments® LLC (the "Sponsor"). Van Eck Securities Corporation and Foreside Fund Services, LLC, provide marketing services to the Trust. Commodities and commodity-index linked securities may be affected by changes in overall market movements and other factors such as weather, disease, embargoes, or political and regulatory developments, as well as trading activity of speculators and arbitrageurs in the underlying commodities. Trust shares trade like stocks, are subject to investment risk and will fluctuate in market value. The value of trust shares relates directly to the value of the gold held by the Trust (less its expenses) and fluctuations in the price of gold could materially and adversely affect an investment in the shares. The price received upon the sale of the shares, which trade at market price, may be more or less than the value of the gold

represented by them. The Trust does not generate any income, and as the Trust regularly issues shares to pay for the Sponsor's ongoing expenses, the amount of gold represented by each Share will decline over time. Investing involves risk, and you could lose money on an investment in the Trust. For a more complete discussion of the risk factors relative to the Trust, carefully read the prospectus. Fund shares are not individually redeemable and will be issued and redeemed at their NAV only through certain authorized broker-dealers in large, specified blocks of shares called "creation units" and otherwise can be bought and sold only through exchange trading. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to their NAV in the secondary market. You will incur brokerage expenses when trading Fund shares in the secondary market. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Returns for actual Fund investments may differ from what is shown because of differences in timing, the amount invested, and fees and expenses. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss. Please call 800.826.2333 or visit vaneck.com for performance information current to the most recent month end and for a free prospectus and summary prospectus. An investor should consider a Fund's investment objective, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other information. Please read the prospectus and summary prospectus carefully before investing. Van Eck Securities Corporation, Distributor 666 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017 800.826.2333 This message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. This communication is for informational purposes only and should not be regarded as an offer to sell or as a solicitation of an offer to buy any financial product, an official confirmation of any transaction, or as an official statement of VanEck or any of its subsidiaries. Email transmissions cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free. Therefore we do not represent that this information is complete or accurate and it should not be relied upon as such. All information is subject to change without notice. All emails at VanEck are, in accordance with Firm policy, to be used for VanEck's business purposes only. Emails sent from or to the Firm are subject to review by the Firm in accordance with the Firm's procedure for the review of correspondence. EMAIL PREFERENCES AND PRIVACY POLICY This email was sent to brakszawski@vaneck.com Read our privacy policy Manage your email subscriptions Unsubscribe © 2018 VanEck