

SPECIAL REPORT

Top Picks 2023



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COVID, RUSSIA/UKRAINE, INFLATION, INTEREST RATES... **GOOD RIDDANCE TO 2022. HERE'S TO 2023!**

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For investors, 2022 should have been a great year, a provocative claim, but the year's winners and losers will not surprise anyone, and for the most part, you have Mr Putin to thank!

Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to a shortage of oil and disrupted supply chains, which drove prices higher, causing inflation to reach multi-decade highs, prompting an aggressive response from global central banks.

In London, the best performers, BAE Systems, Shell and **BP**, boasted gains of approximately 50%, whilst Stateside, Occidental Petroleum and Exxon rallied 122% and 80% respectively.

The worst performers included Persimmon, Meta, PayPal, Frederick & Oliver

Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust, Tesla and Barratt **Developments**, down as much as 65%.

Welcome / Pages 2-3

So to 2023, 'the West' will likely enter a **recession**, leading to a fall in inflation and central banks cutting interest rates, prompting a recovery in high quality technology stocks, partially supported by the 'reopening' of China, now seemingly prepared to drop its 'zero-covid' policy.

The graphic above details our Top Picks 2023 with many stocks benefitting from an overlap in circumstances. Read on for more information.

Good luck with your investments.

Visa Inc

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CREDIT CARD USAGE IS SET TO RISE AS RECESSION LOOMS

Credit card usage hit a record-high in the US this year, whilst 1 in 4 Brits said the cost of living crisis is the main reason for using their credit cards. Inflation is expected to halve by the end of 2023, reducing the financial burden on households. Until then the credit card may have some more swiping to do yet.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys 36	Holds 3	Sells 1
Most Bullish Ana Evercore \$290	llyst N	Most Bearish Analyst Oppenheimer \$210
Average 12 month \$248	target	Potential upside % +20.4%

CHART OBSERVATIONS 2022 Low 2022 High Distance to Low Distance to High Current Price \$206 \$174 \$235 -15.5% +14.1% 230 0000 220.0000 210.0000 20611 200.0000 180.0000 175.0000 -24.1100 -10.47% H 236.9550 L 174.1400 Wed 1 Sep 2021 - Sat 11 Feb 2023

easyJet Plc

ARE SHARES IN EASYJET SET TO TAKE-OFF IN 2023?

Having plummeted from a pre-pandemic price of 1600p, easylet has been a stock of much speculation among retail investors – will it survive, merge, a takeover target, return to former glory? Whilst a recession is likely incoming, families will unlikely sacrifice a week in the sun. In fact UK data shows 20% of credit card spend is on holidays.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys	Holds	Sells
12	1	6
Most Bullish Analyst		Most Bearish Analys
Bernstein		JP Morgan
700p		260p

Average 12 month target **463p**

Potential upside % +28.2%



McDonald's

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MCDONALD'S - SHOULD INVESTORS BE 'LOVING IT'?

As 'belts tighten' they may need to be loosened again to accommodate a trip to the golden arches. Whilst significant purchases may be off the menu for many households during a recession, a Happy Meal will likely prove an adequate treat. McDonald's is considered by many to be recession-proof, having raised its dividend for 43 consecutive years.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

28	Holds 12	Sells 1
Most Bullish Analy Loop Capital \$290	vst	Most Bearish Analyst Morningstar \$247
Average 12 month ta	rget	Potential upside %

Microsoft

HYBRID WORKING AND XBOX GAMING TO BOOST 2023

A winner of the 'work from home' movement, Microsoft will continue to benefit from flexible working practices. A victim of higher inflation, the tech giant will benefit from falling interest rates in 2023 and an army of online Xbox button-bashers, whom might find themselves online more often in a looser labour market.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys Holds Sells 53 4 0

Most Bullish Analyst
Tigress Financial
\$411

Most Bearish Analyst

Macquarie

\$234

Average 12 month target \$296

Potential up/downside % +21.3%



Netflix

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NETFLIX ROLLER COASTER SET TO CLIMB AGAIN IN 2023?

A Covid beneficiary, turned rate hike victim. Shares more than doubled during Covid, only to slide more than 75% thereafter, as tech stocks fell victim to a higher interest rate environment. We believe Netflix shares will rise once again as inflation falls, and remain a 'cheap treat' consumers will refrain from cancelling during a recession.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys	Holds	Sells
23	23	4
Most Bullish Analyst President Capital		Most Bearish Analyst Benchmark Co
\$480		\$162

Potential up/downside %

+5.2%

Average 12 month target

\$301



Amazon

SHARES ARE DOWN ALMOST 50% IN 2022 - TIME TO BUY?

The western world's largest e-commerce company is trading at a 50% discount in 2022 - another tech stock to benefit from cooling inflation in 2023? An ever present for savvy, online shoppers looking for competitive deals without leaving house.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys 54	Holds 3	Sells 1
Most Bullish Analyst Tigress Financial \$192	t N	Aost Bearish Analyst BNP Paribas \$80
Average 12 month targ	get Pot	ential up/downside %

+57.9%

\$139



Nvidia

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TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 50% DISCOUNT?

Not a household name, but if you own a few electrical gadgets, you're probably in possession of an Nvidia micro processing chip. The stock, like its tech peers, has fallen 50% over the past year, further hampered by the 'zero-covid' policy in China. Cooling inflation and the relaxing of Covid restrictions in China should benefit Nvidia in 2023.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys	Holds	Sells
36	14	2
Most Bullish Ana Rosenblatt Secur \$320	•	Most Bearish Analyst BNP Paribas \$110
verage 12 month	target Po	otential un/downside 9

+19.2%

\$198

CHART OBSERVATIONS 2022 Low 2022 High Distance to High Current Price Distance to Low \$166 \$108 \$307 -34.9% +84.9% 300.0000 280.0000 260.0000 220.0000 200.0000 120.0000

Disney

WILL YOUR PORTFOLIO BENEFIT FROM THE MAGIC OF DISNEY?

Like Apple, Disney could benefit from all 3 scenarios. The Disney+ streaming service has 164 million subscribers, the Shanghai and Hong Kong parks have reopened (50% of Disney's income comes from park operations) and a resurgence in technology stocks could see Disney begin to recover some of its 50% decline over the past year.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys Holds Sells
29 5 0

Most Bullish Analyst
Tigress Financial
\$177

Most Bearish Analyst
Cowen & Co
\$94

Average 12 month target \$129

Potential up/downside % +44.9%



Tesla

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TIME TO BUY SHARES IN THE **BATTERED EV MAKER?**

Having doubled in value in 2021, shares in Tesla have suffered at the hands of profiteering in 2022. Losses have been further compounded by lockdowns in China and soaring interest rate rises in the US, not to mention heavy selling from Elon Musk to fund his Twitter acquisition. Now, 60% down in 2022, is now the time to buy?

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices: Holds

Sells

+79.5%

2,	12
Most Bullish Analyst New Street Research \$530	Most Bearish Analyst Roth Capital Partners \$85
Average 12 month target	Potential up/downside %

Buys

\$280



Prudential

ANALYSTS ARE TIPPING PRU FOR A RETURN TO 2022-HIGHS

Prudential experienced a steep fall in new business profits in 2022, due to harsh Covid restrictions throughout China and Hong Kong, causing shares to fall 40%. With Chinese authorities now seemingly prepared to ditch their 'catch every cold' policy, Prudential could once again flourish.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys 21	Holds 2	Sells 1
Most Bullish Analyst HSBC 1670p		Most Bearish Analyst Mediobanca 985p

Average 12 month target 1356p

Potential up/downside % +28.5%





Apple

COULD APPLE BE THE TOP PICK FOR 2023?

The beneficiary of all 3 circumstances we hypothesise in 2023? Stuttering production lines will recover as China reopens. A rate-easing induced, tech recovery will likely render shares a 'bargain' at \$134. Recession? Handset refresh cycles will provide the impoverished consumer with a new very welcome, 'free' iPhone.

WHAT DO THE ANALYSTS SAY?

See the following ratings and target prices:

Buys Holds 7

Most Bullish Analyst
Tigress Financial
\$210

Most Bearish Analyst
Aletheia Capital
\$118

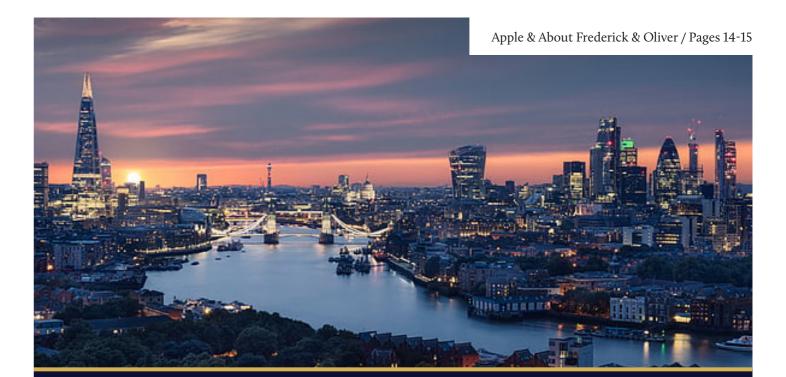
Sells

Average 12 month target \$173

Potential up/downside % +29.1%

CHART OBSERVATIONS





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