

Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

VISTA GOLD CORP  
Form 424B3  
January 13, 2003

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-102384

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY \_\_\_\_, 2003

VISTA GOLD CORP.

3,012,409 Common Shares  
without par value

All of the 3,012,409 Vista Gold common shares offered by this prospectus may be offered and sold, from time to time, by the selling security holders identified in this prospectus. These shares include 1,511,639 shares currently owned by selling security holders and 1,500,770 shares issuable upon exercise of warrants, all as described in this prospectus under "Selling Security Holders." We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling security holders.

The selling security holders may sell the common shares from time to time in public or private transactions, on or off the American Stock Exchange or the Toronto Stock Exchange, at prevailing market prices, or at privately negotiated prices. The selling security holders may sell shares directly to purchasers or through brokers or dealers. Brokers or dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling security holders.

Our common shares are traded on the American Stock Exchange and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol VGZ. On January 3, 2003, the closing price of a common share, as reported on the American Stock Exchange, was \$4.35 per share.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMON SHARES INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 2 TO READ ABOUT CERTAIN RISKS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING OUR COMMON SHARES.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is January 13, 2003.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein constitute forward-looking statements concerning, among other things, projected annual gold production, mineralized material, proven or probable reserves and cash operating costs. Forward-looking statements typically contain words or phrases such as "anticipates," "estimates," "projects," "foresees," "management believes," "believes" and words or phrases of similar import. These statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties or assumptions. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements include those identified in this document under "Risk Factors" below. Vista Gold assumes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions, or changes in other factors

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

affecting such statements.

### VISTA GOLD CORP.

Vista Gold Corp. is engaged in the evaluation, acquisition and exploration of mineral properties with the potential to host gold deposits, as well as the development and operation of gold properties in the Americas. Our primary focus currently is on the acquisition of properties that contain gold deposits. Since 1971, Vista Gold and its predecessor companies have held participating interests in seven mines, four of which were discovered by Vista Gold. We have also operated five of the seven mines.

During 2001 and 2002, our primary operation, the Hycroft mine in Nevada, remained shut down pending an increase in prevailing gold prices. However, the Hycroft mine continued to be the principal source of cash for Vista Gold because gold and by-product silver continued to be produced from ore previously placed on the heap leach pads.

Vista Gold owns the Amayapampa gold property in Bolivia. A feasibility study for this property was completed in 1997 and a revised feasibility study was completed in the first quarter of 2000. We hold several mining claims in Canada and own approximately a 25% equity interest in Zamora, a Canadian mineral exploration company with interests in mineral concessions in southern Ecuador. Vista Gold performed no exploration or development activity in 2001 or 2002.

On August 29, 2002, we completed the acquisition of the 100% interest held by Viceroy Resource Corporation in the Paredones Amarillos gold project on the Baja Peninsula, Mexico. The total purchase price was Cdn. \$3 million (approximately U.S. \$2 million), payable 50% in cash, with Cdn. \$1.0 million due at closing and Cdn. \$0.5 million due one year from closing, and 50% in Vista Gold equity units consisting of one common share and one two-year warrant to purchase one common share. The price of the equity units was Cdn. \$4.95 (approximately U.S. \$3.17), being 90% of the weighted average closing price of Vista Gold's common shares on the five trading days immediately preceding the date of the definitive purchase agreement. The exercise price of the warrants was 125% of that weighted average closing price, or Cdn. \$6.87 (approximately U.S. \$4.40). Accordingly, at closing we paid Cdn. \$1.0 million and issued to Viceroy Resource 303,030 Vista Gold equity units.

On October 8, 2002, we completed the acquisition of a 100% interest in the Maverick Springs gold and silver project and the Mountain View gold project, both in Nevada, from Newmont USA Limited, doing business as Newmont Mining Corporation, and its wholly-owned subsidiary Newmont Capital Limited. The total purchase price for both projects included Vista Gold assuming all of the sellers' obligations with respect to the properties, including work

1

commitments, and paying a purchase price of U.S. \$1.5 million. Of this amount, \$1 million was payable at closing, including \$300,000 in cash (all paid to Newmont USA) and issuance of \$700,000 in Vista Gold equity units consisting of one common share and one two-year warrant to purchase one common share. The price of the equity units was \$3.54, being the weighted average closing price of Vista Gold's common shares on the ten trading days ended August 29, 2002. The exercise price of the warrants was 125% of that weighted average closing price, or \$4.43. Accordingly, at closing we paid \$300,000 to Newmont USA and issued an aggregate 197,740 equity units, of which 141,243 were issued to Newmont USA and 56,497 to Newmont Capital. On the first anniversary of the closing, Vista Gold will issue to Newmont USA \$500,000 in equity units, with pricing based on the weighted average closing price of our common shares on the 10 trading days

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

immediately preceding the first anniversary date. The warrants in this installment will also have a two-year term and an exercise price of 125% of the respective equity unit valuation. In addition, Newmont USA, at its option, will retain either a 1 1/2% net smelter returns royalty (which is a royalty based on the value of production) or the right to acquire 51% of either or both projects, after four years, by paying Vista Gold cash equaling 200% of the expenditures made by Vista Gold on the related property (including acquisition cost).

Vista Gold was originally incorporated under the Company Act (British Columbia) in 1983 under the name "Granges Exploration Ltd.". In 1985, Granges Exploration Ltd. and Pecos Resources Ltd. amalgamated under the name "Granges Exploration Ltd." and in 1989, Granges Exploration Ltd. changed its name to "Granges Inc.". In 1995, Granges and Hycroft Resources & Development Corporation were amalgamated under the name "Granges Inc.". In 1996, Granges and Da Capo Resources Ltd. amalgamated under the name "Vista Gold Corp.". Effective December 19, 1997, Vista Gold was continued from British Columbia to the Yukon Territory, Canada under the Business Corporations Act (Yukon Territory).

Our principal executive offices are located at Suite 5, 7961 Shaffer Parkway, Littleton, Colorado 80127, and our telephone number is (720) 981-1185.

Unless otherwise specified, monetary amounts in this prospectus are reported in U.S. dollars.

### RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common shares involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below and the other information contained in this prospectus before deciding to invest in our common shares. The risks described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks not presently known to us or which we currently consider immaterial may also adversely affect our business. We have attempted to identify the major factors under the heading "Risk Factors" that could cause differences between actual and planned or expected results, and we have included all material risk factors. If any of the following risks actually happen, our business, financial condition and operating results could be materially adversely affected. In this case, the trading price of our common shares could decline, and you could lose part or all of your investment.

We cannot be certain that our acquisition, exploration and development activities will be commercially successful.

We currently have no properties that produce gold in commercial quantities. Our gold production has declined steadily since mining activities were suspended at the Hycroft mine in 1998. Gold production is now nominal and is incidental to heap leach pad rinsing activities. In

2

these circumstances, proceeds realized from the sale of gold are not reported as revenues, but rather are netted against operating costs.

Substantial expenditures are required to acquire existing gold properties, to establish ore reserves through drilling and analysis, to develop metallurgical processes to extract metal from the ore and, in the case of new properties, to develop the mining and processing facilities and infrastructure at any site chosen for mining. We cannot assure you that any gold reserves or mineralized material acquired or discovered will be in sufficient quantities to justify commercial operations or that the funds required for development can be obtained on a timely basis.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

The price of gold is subject to fluctuations, which could adversely affect the realizable value of our assets and potential future results of operations and cash flow.

Our principal assets are gold reserves and mineralized material. We intend to acquire additional properties containing gold reserves and mineralized material. The price that we pay to acquire these properties will be, in large part, influenced by the price of gold at the time of the acquisition. Our future revenues are expected to be, in large part, derived from the mining and sale of gold from these properties or from the outright sale of some of these properties. The value of these gold reserves and mineralized material, and the value of any potential gold production therefrom, will vary in direct proportion to variations in gold prices. The price of gold has fluctuated widely, and is affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including international, economic and political trends, expectations of inflation, currency exchange fluctuations, central bank activities, interest rates, global or regional consumption patterns (such as the development of gold coin programs), speculative activities and increased production due to new mine developments and improved mining and production methods. The effect of these factors on the price of gold, and therefore the economic viability of any of our projects, cannot accurately be predicted. Any drop in the price of gold or other precious metals would adversely affect our asset values, revenues, profits and cash flows.

Mining exploration, development and operating activities are inherently hazardous.

Mineral exploration involves many risks that even a combination of experience, knowledge and careful evaluation may not be able to overcome. Operations in which Vista Gold has direct or indirect interests will be subject to all the hazards and risks normally incidental to exploration, development and production of gold and other metals, any of which could result in work stoppages, damage to property and possible environmental damage. The nature of these risks is such that liabilities might exceed any liability insurance policy limits. It is also possible that the liabilities and hazards might not be insurable, or, Vista Gold could elect not to insure itself against such liabilities due to high premium costs or other reasons, in which event, we could incur significant costs that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Reserve calculations are estimates only, subject to uncertainty due to factors including metal prices and recoverability of metal in the mining process.

There is a degree of uncertainty attributable to the calculation of reserves and corresponding grades being mined or dedicated to future production. Until reserves are actually mined and processed, the quantity of ore and grades must be considered as an estimate only. In addition, the quantity of reserves and ore may vary depending on metal prices. Any material change in the quantity of reserves, mineralization, grade or stripping ratio may affect the economic viability of our properties. In addition, there can be no assurance that gold recoveries or other metal recoveries in small-scale laboratory tests will be duplicated in larger scale tests under on-site conditions or during production.

3

Our exploration and development operations are subject to environmental regulations, which could result in our incurring additional costs and operational delays.

All phases of our operations are subject to environmental regulation.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

Environmental legislation is evolving in some countries or jurisdictions in a manner which will require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors and employees. There is no assurance that future changes in environmental regulation, if any, will not adversely affect our operations. We are currently subject to environmental regulations with respect to our properties in Nevada, Mexico and Bolivia.

The Hycroft mine in Nevada occupies private and public lands. The public lands include unpatented mining claims on lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These claims are governed by the laws and regulations of the U.S. federal government and the state of Nevada.

### U.S. Federal Laws

The Bureau of Land Management requires that mining operations on lands subject to its regulation obtain an approved plan of operations subject to environmental impact evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act. Any significant modifications to the plan of operations may require the completion of an environmental assessment or Environmental Impact Statement prior to approval. Mining companies must post a bond or other surety to guarantee the cost of post-mining reclamation. These requirements could add significant additional cost and delays to any mining project we undertake.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, mining companies may incur costs for generating, transporting, treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste, as well as for closure and post-closure maintenance once they have completed mining activities on a property. Our mining operations may produce air emissions, including fugitive dust and other air pollutants, from stationary equipment, storage facilities, and the use of mobile sources such as trucks and heavy construction equipment which are subject to review, monitoring and/or control requirements under the Federal Clean Air Act and state air quality laws. Permitting rules may impose limitations on our production levels or create additional capital expenditures in order to comply with the rules.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended imposes strict, joint and several liability on parties associated with releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances. Those liable groups include, among others, the current owners and operators of facilities which release hazardous substances into the environment and past owners and operators of properties who owned such properties at the time the disposal of the hazardous substances occurred. This liability could include the cost of removal or remediation of the release and damages for injury to the surrounding property. We cannot predict the potential for future CERCLA liability with respect to our Nevada property or surrounding areas.

### Nevada Laws

At the state level, mining operations in Nevada are also regulated by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection. Nevada state law requires the Hycroft mine to hold Nevada Water Pollution Control Permits, which dictate operating controls and closure and post-closure requirements directed at protecting surface and ground water. In addition, we are required to hold Nevada Reclamation Permits required under NRS 519A.010 through 519A.170. These permits mandate concurrent and post-mining reclamation of mines and require the posting of reclamation bonds sufficient to guarantee the cost of mine reclamation. Other

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

Nevada regulations govern operating and design standards for the construction and operation of any source of air contamination, and landfill operations. Any changes to these laws and regulations could have an adverse impact on our financial performance and results of operations by, for example, required changes to operating constraints, technical criteria, fees or surety requirements.

### Mexico Laws

We are required under Mexican laws and regulations to acquire permits and other authorizations before we can develop and mine the Paredones Amarillos project. Since the passage of Mexico's 1988 General Law on Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection, a sophisticated system for environmental regulation has evolved. In addition, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) requirements for regulatory standards in Mexico equivalent to those of the U.S. and Canada have obligated the Mexican government to continue further development of environmental regulation. Most regulatory programs are implemented by various divisions of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries Secretariat (SEMARNAP). There can be no assurance that we will be able to acquire necessary permits or authorizations on a timely basis. Delays in acquiring any permit or authorization could increase the development cost of the Paredones Amarillos project, or delay the start of production.

The most significant environmental permitting requirements, as they relate to the Paredones Amarillos project are: developing reports on environmental impacts; regulation and permitting of discharges to air, water and land; new source performance standards for specific air and water pollutant emitting sources; solid and hazardous waste management regulations; developing risk assessment reports; developing evacuation plans; and monitoring inventories of hazardous materials. If our project is found to not be in compliance with any of these requirements, we could incur significant compliance costs, or delay the start of production.

### Bolivia Laws

We are required under Bolivian laws and regulations to acquire permits and other authorizations before we can develop and mine the Amayapampa project. In Bolivia there is relatively new comprehensive environmental legislation, and the permitting and authorization process may be less established and less predictable than in the United States. There can be no assurance that we will be able to acquire necessary permits or authorizations on a timely basis. Delays in acquiring any permit or authorization could increase the development cost of the Amayapampa project, or delay the start of production.

Under Bolivian regulations, the primary component of environmental compliance and permitting is the completion and approval of an environmental impact study known as Estudio de Evaluacion de Impacto Ambiental, or EEIA. The EEIA provides a description of the existing environment, both natural and socio-economic, at the project site and in the region; interprets and analyzes the nature and magnitude of potential environmental impacts that might result from project activities, and describes and evaluates the effectiveness of the operational measures planned to mitigate the environmental impacts. Baseline environmental conditions, including meteorology and air quality, hydrological resources and surface water, are the basis by which direct and indirect project-related impacts are evaluated and by which potential mitigation measures are proposed. If our project is found to significantly adversely impact any of these baseline conditions, we could incur significant costs to correct the adverse impact, or delay the start of production.

We face intense competition in the mining industry.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

The mining industry is intensely competitive in all of its phases. As a result of this competition, some of which is with large established mining companies with substantial capabilities

5

and with greater financial and technical resources than ours, we may be unable to acquire additional attractive mining claims or financing on terms we consider acceptable. Vista Gold also competes with other mining companies in the recruitment and retention of qualified managerial and technical employees. If we are unable to successfully compete for qualified employees, our exploration and development programs may be slowed down or suspended.

Some of our directors may have conflicts of interest as a result of their involvement with other natural resource companies.

Some of our directors are directors or officers of other natural resource or mining-related companies. Robert A. Quartermain is currently President and a director of Silver Standard Resources Inc., and is an officer and a director of Canplats Resources Corporation and of Pacific Sapphire Company Ltd. He is a director of Repadre Capital Corporation (which holds interests in resource properties), Western Copper Holdings Ltd., Paso Rico Resources and Reliant Ventures Ltd. C. Thomas Ogryzlo is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Canatec Development Corporation. Michael B. Richings is President and a director of Kinrade Resources Limited. These associations may give rise to conflicts of interest from time to time. In the event that any such conflict of interest arises, a director who has such a conflict is required to disclose the conflict to a meeting of the directors of the company in question and to abstain from voting for or against approval of any matter in which such director may have a conflict. In appropriate cases, the company in question will establish a special committee of independent directors to review a matter in which several directors, or management, may have a conflict. In accordance with the laws of the Yukon Territory, the directors of all companies are required to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of a company for which they serve as a director.

There may be challenges to our title in our mineral properties.

There may be challenges to title to the mineral properties in which we hold a material interest. If there are title defects with respect to any of our properties, we might be required to compensate other persons or perhaps reduce our interest in the affected property. Also, in any such case, the investigation and resolution of title issues would divert management's time from ongoing exploration and development programs.

Our property interests in Bolivia are subject to risks from political and economic instability in that country.

We have property interests in Bolivia, which may be affected by risks associated with political or economic instability in that country. The risks include, but are not limited to: military repression, extreme fluctuations in currency exchange rates, labor instability or militancy, mineral title irregularities and high rates of inflation. Changes in mining or investment policies or shifts in political attitude in Bolivia may adversely affect our business. We may be affected in varying degrees by government regulation with respect to restrictions on production, price controls, export controls, income taxes, expropriation of property, maintenance of claims, environmental legislation, land use, land claims of local people, water use and mine safety. The effect of these factors cannot be accurately predicted.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

Our financial position and results are subject to fluctuations in foreign currency values.

Because we have mining exploration and development operations in North and South America, we are subject to foreign currency fluctuations, which may materially affect our financial position and results. We do not engage in currency hedging to offset any risk of currency fluctuations.

6

We measure and report our financial results in U.S. dollars. We have a mining project in Bolivia and an advanced gold project in Mexico, and we are looking for other projects in Mexico and in Central and South America. Economic conditions and monetary policies in these countries can result in severe currency fluctuations (as evidenced by the 1999 devaluation of the Brazilian Real). The Mexican Peso, for example, has fluctuated between \$0.088 and \$0.112, or 26%, over the past 12 months; the Bolivian Boliviano has fluctuated between U.S. \$0.129 and \$0.154, or 19%, over the past 12 months.

Currently all our material transactions in Mexico and Bolivia are denominated in U.S. dollars. However, if we begin commercial operations in Mexico or Bolivia (or other Latin American countries) it is possible that material transactions incurred in the local currency, such as engagement of local contractors for major projects, will be settled at a U.S. dollar value that is different from the U.S. dollar value of the transaction at the time it was incurred. This could have the effect of undermining profits from our operations in that country.

We may be unable to raise additional capital on favorable terms.

The exploration and development of our development properties, specifically the construction of mining facilities and commencement of mining operations, may require substantial additional financing. Significant capital investment is required to achieve commercial production from each of our non-producing properties. We will have to raise additional funds from external sources in order to restart mining activities at the Hycroft mine or begin construction and development activities at the Amayapampa project in Bolivia. There can be no assurance that additional financing will be available at all or on acceptable terms and, if additional financing is not available, we may have to substantially reduce or cease our operations.

The market price of our common shares could decrease as a result of the impact of the significant increase in the number of our outstanding shares that may result from exercise of warrants pursuant to our 2002 issuances.

At December 31, 2002, we had outstanding 10,744,613 common shares. Of the 3,012,409 shares being offered by our selling security holders under this prospectus, 1,511,639 are currently outstanding and therefore are already reflected in our total outstanding shares, and the remaining 1,500,770 are issuable upon exercise of warrants. An additional 3,320,251 shares are issuable upon exercise of warrants, including warrants issued upon conversion of debentures, all as acquired from Vista Gold in private placement transactions we undertook earlier this year as described in our previous filings with the SEC including our Form 10-QSB for the period ended March 31, 2002. If all of the warrants are exercised, the number of our currently outstanding shares would increase by approximately 45%, to 15,565,634. The impact of the issuance of a significant amount of common shares from these warrant exercises may place substantial downward pressure on the market price of our common shares.

It may be difficult to enforce judgments or bring actions outside the United



## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

States against us and certain of our directors and officers.

Vista Gold is a Canadian corporation and certain of its directors and officers are neither citizens nor residents of the United States. A substantial part of the assets of several of these persons, and of Vista Gold, are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for an investor:

- o to enforce in courts outside the United States judgments obtained in United States courts based upon the civil liability provisions of United States federal securities laws against these persons and Vista Gold; or

7

- o to bring in courts outside the United States an original action to enforce liabilities based upon United States federal securities laws against these persons and Vista Gold.

### USE OF PROCEEDS

Vista Gold will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common shares offered by the selling security holders.

### SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS

The selling security holders identified in the following table are offering for sale a total of 3,012,409 common shares. These shares include 1,511,639 common shares currently owned by selling security holders and 1,500,770 shares issuable upon exercise of warrants. We issued the shares and warrants to the selling security holders in different transactions, as follows:

- o Acquisitions of Property Interests. In August 2002, we issued 303,030 equity units, each consisting of one common share and one warrant, to Viceroy Resource Corporation, as partial consideration for our purchase of the Paredones Amarillos gold project in Mexico. In October 2002, we issued an aggregate 197,740 equity units, each consisting of one common share and one warrant, to Newmont USA Limited and Newmont Capital Limited, as partial consideration for our purchase of the Maverick Springs gold and silver project and the Mountain View gold project, both in Nevada.
- o Private Placement Financing. In December 2002, we issued an aggregate 1,000,000 equity units, each consisting of one common share and one warrant, to Vertical Ventures Investments, LLC, Cleveland Overseas Ltd. and PanAmerica Capital Group, Inc. in a private placement financing.
- o Compensation for Financial Advisory Services. In December 2002, we issued 10,869 common shares to Endeavour Financial Corporation Inc. as compensation for financial advisory services.

These issuances are discussed below.

### Issuances in Connection with Acquisitions of Property Interests

As described on page 1 under "Vista Gold Corp.", on August 29, 2002, we completed the acquisition of the 100% interest held by Viceroy Resource Corporation in the Paredones Amarillos gold project in Mexico. The total purchase price was Cdn. \$3 million (approximately U.S. \$2 million), payable 50%

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

in cash, with Cdn. \$1.0 million due at closing and Cdn. \$0.5 million due one year from closing, and 50% in Vista Gold equity units consisting of one common share and one two-year warrant to purchase one common share. The price of the equity units was Cdn. \$4.95 (approximately U.S. \$3.17), being 90% of the weighted average closing price of Vista Gold's common shares on the five trading days immediately preceding August 29, 2002, the date of the definitive purchase agreement. On that date, the closing price for our common shares on the American Stock Exchange was \$3.97. The exercise price of the warrants was 125% of that weighted average closing price, or Cdn. \$6.87 (approximately U.S. \$4.40). Accordingly, at closing we paid Cdn. \$1.0 million and issued to Viceroy Resource 303,030 Vista Gold equity units.

8

Also as described under "Vista Gold Corp.", on October 8, 2002, we completed the acquisition of a 100% interest in each of the Maverick Springs gold and silver project and the Mountain View gold project, both in Nevada, from Newmont USA Limited, doing business as Newmont Mining Corporation, and its wholly-owned subsidiary Newmont Capital Limited. The total purchase price for both projects included Vista Gold assuming all of the sellers' obligations with respect to the properties, and paying a purchase price of U.S. \$1.5 million. Of this amount, \$1 million was payable at closing, including \$300,000 in cash (all paid to Newmont USA) and issuance of \$700,000 in Vista Gold equity units consisting of one common share and one two-year warrant to purchase one common share. The price of the equity units was \$3.54, being the weighted average closing price of Vista Gold's common shares on the ten trading days ended August 29, 2002, which was the last trading day prior to the date of the related letter of intent. The exercise price of the warrants was 125% of that weighted average closing price, or \$4.43. Accordingly, at closing we paid \$300,000 to Newmont USA and issued an aggregate 197,740 equity units, of which 141,243 were issued to Newmont USA and 56,497 to Newmont Capital. On the first anniversary of the closing, we will issue to Newmont USA \$500,000 in equity units, with pricing based on the weighted average closing price of our common shares on the 10 trading days immediately preceding the first anniversary date. The warrants in this installment will also have a two-year term and an exercise price of 125% of the respective equity unit valuation. For accounting purposes, the valuation of the property interests acquired was based on the fair value of the consideration on October 8, 2002.

We agreed in connection with these transactions to register all shares issuable in the transactions including shares issuable upon exercise of warrants.

### Issuances in Private Placement Financing

On December 27, 2002, we completed a private placement financing in which we issued 1,000,000 equity units at a price of \$2.35 per unit, with the common share component of the unit representing substantially all of the unit value. The transaction was priced as of December 4, 2002, based on a 15% discount to the five-day weighted average price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange (adjusted for U.S./Canadian dollar exchange rates), during the five trading days ending on that date. Each unit consists of one common share and one warrant, exercisable over a two-year period from the issuance date, to purchase one common share for \$3.04 during the first year and \$3.45 during the second year. On December 4, 2002, the closing price for our common shares on the American Stock Exchange was \$2.95. Our net proceeds of approximately \$2.3 million will be used to evaluate and acquire gold mining properties, and to hold and maintain these properties for development or sale in anticipation of higher gold prices. We agreed in connection with this transaction to register all shares issuable in the transaction including shares issuable upon exercise of

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

warrants.

### Issuances as Compensation for Financial Advisory Services

Pursuant to our agreement with Endeavour Financial Corporation Inc. dated August 22, 2002, as amended on November 30, 2002, Endeavour is to provide financial advisory services to us for a monthly fee of \$10,000, payable on the first business day of the month following that in which services are provided. The monthly fee is payable by the issuance to Endeavour of a non-transferable convertible promissory note, which is in turn automatically converted into Vista Gold common shares at a price per share equal to the weighted average closing price of the shares on the American Stock Exchange on the last 10 trading days of the month prior to the business day on which the fee becomes due. We agreed to register all shares issued to Endeavour under this agreement. As of December 20, 2002, we had issued 10,869 common shares to Endeavour under the terms of this agreement, as follows:

9

Date Convertible Note Issued -----	Principal Amount of Convertible Note -----	AMEX 10-Day Weighted-Average Closing Price Preceding Note Issuance -----	Number of Shares Issuable upon Conversion of Note -----
September 1, 2002	\$ 5,000	\$3.54	1,412
October 1, 2002	10,000	4.56	2,193
November 1, 2002	10,000	3.00	3,334
December 1, 2002	10,000	2.54	3,930
	-----		-----
Totals	\$35,000		10,869

The selling security holders may offer their common shares for sale from time to time at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices, and without payment of any underwriting discounts or commissions except for usual and customary selling commissions paid to brokers or dealers.

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2002, the number of shares being held of record or beneficially by the selling security holders that may be offered under this prospectus, and provides by footnote reference any material relationship between Vista Gold and the selling security holder, all of which is based upon information currently available to us.

Name of Selling Security Holder	Number -----	Percent -----	Number of Shares Offered Hereby (3) -----	Beneficial Ownership of Selling Security Holder Prior to Offering (1) -----	Beneficial After -----
-----					

Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

Viceroy Resource Corporation (4)	606,060	5.5%	606,060	
Newmont USA Limited (5)	282,486	2.6%	282,486	
Newmont Capital Limited (5)	112,994	1.0%	112,994	
Vertical Ventures Investments, LLC (6)	765,956	6.9%	765,956	
Cleveland Overseas Ltd. (7)	382,978	3.5%	382,978	
PanAmerica Capital Group, Inc. (8)	989,285	8.8%	851,066	138,21
Endeavour Financial Corporation Inc. (9)	10,869	*	10,869	
TOTAL	3,150,628	25.6%	3,012,409	138,21

\* Represents less than 1% of the outstanding common shares.

- (1) Applicable percentage of ownership is based on 10,744,613 common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2002, plus any securities held by such holder exercisable for or convertible into common shares within sixty (60) days after the date of this prospectus, in accordance with Rule 13d-3(d) (1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (2) Because the selling security holders may sell all, some or none of their shares or may acquire or dispose of other common shares, we cannot estimate the aggregate number of shares which will be sold in this offering or the

10

number or percentage of common shares that each selling security holder will own upon completion of this offering.

- (3) Unless otherwise noted, represents the total number of (i) common shares issued to the selling security holder and (ii) shares issuable to the holder upon exercise of warrants (if any) acquired in transactions as described above, and assumes in all cases that all shares are sold pursuant to this offering and that no other common shares are acquired or disposed of by the selling security holders prior to the termination of this offering.
- (4) Viceroy Resource Corporation is a widely-held, publicly-traded Canadian corporation. Viceroy trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange. A. Murray Sinclair, who was a director of Vista Gold until October 24, 2002, is its Chairman and does not own any shares of Viceroy. Ronald K. Netolitzky is its President and Chief Executive Officer and is the beneficial owner of approximately 4.4% of its outstanding common shares. Exploration Capital Partners 2000 Limited Partnership, a Nevada limited partnership, and its General Partner, Resource Capital Investment Corp., own in aggregate approximately 11% of the outstanding common shares and warrants which, if exercised, would increase their aggregate holdings to 14% of the then outstanding common shares. Resource Capital is a Nevada corporation that is 90% owned by the Rule Family Trust u/d/t 12/17/98. A. Richards Rule is President and a Director of Resource Capital, and, with his wife, is co-Trustee of the Rule Family Trust. To the knowledge of Viceroy's management, no other person beneficially owns 5% or more of its outstanding common shares.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

- (5) Newmont USA Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, which is a widely-held, publicly-traded U.S. corporation. The President of Newmont USA is Bruce Hansen, and the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Newmont Mining is Wayne Murdy. Based on the most recent Schedule 14A Information Statement filed with the SEC, FMR Corp. of Massachusetts owns approximately 9% of the outstanding common stock of Newmont Mining. To the knowledge of Newmont Mining management, no other person beneficially owns 5% or more of its outstanding common shares. Newmont Capital Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining.
- (6) Vertical Ventures Investments, LLC is a privately-held limited liability company based in New York. Based on its filing with the Toronto Stock Exchange in connection with its purchase of equity units from Vista Gold in December 2002, Joshua Silverman is a partner and authorized signatory, and no person beneficially owns 10% or more of its outstanding equity.
- (7) Cleveland Overseas Ltd. is a privately-held limited liability company based in Liechtenstein. Ewald Vogt is a director of Cleveland Overseas, and GTF Global Trade & Finance S.A., also based in Liechtenstein, owns all of its outstanding equity. Mr. Vogt owns 50% of the outstanding equity of GTF.
- (8) PanAmerica Capital Group, Inc., is a privately-held corporation based in Panama. Based on its filing with the Toronto Stock Exchange in connection with its purchase of equity units from Vista Gold in December 2002, its President is Patrick M. Abraham, and no person beneficially owns 10% or more of its outstanding equity. Ownership totals include 59,889 previously acquired common shares and 78,330 common shares issuable upon exercise of previously acquired warrants, that are not being registered for inclusion in this offering.
- (9) Endeavour Financial Corporation Inc. is a privately-held corporation based in the Cayman Islands. Its directors are Wayne McManus, Neil Woodyer and William Koutsouras, who is also its sole officer. Its controlling shareholders are: Dragon Capital Holdings Limited (a United Kingdom incorporated company), Yeoman Investments Inc. (an Antigua incorporated company) and Omega Holdings (a Barbados incorporated company). Further information as to these companies is not available.

11

### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Vista Gold is registering the shares on behalf of the selling security holders. We will pay all expenses in connection with the registration of the common shares being sold by the selling security holders, except for the fees and expenses of any counsel and other advisors that any selling security holders may employ to represent them in connection with the offering and any brokerage or underwriting discounts or commissions paid to broker-dealers in connection with the sale of the shares. Vista Gold will not receive any of the proceeds of the sale of the shares offered by the selling security holders.

The selling security holders have not advised us of any specific plan for distribution of the shares offered hereby, but it is anticipated that the shares will be sold from time to time by the selling security holders or by pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors in interest on a best efforts basis without an underwriter. Such sales may be made on the American Stock Exchange, the Toronto Stock Exchange, any exchange upon which our shares may trade in the

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

future, over-the-counter, or otherwise, at prices and at terms then prevailing or at prices related to the then current market price, or in negotiated transactions. The shares may be sold by one or more of the following, without limitation:

- o a block trade in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- o purchases by a broker or dealer for its account pursuant to this prospectus;
- o ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchases;
- o through options, swaps or derivatives;
- o in privately negotiated transactions;
- o in transactions to cover short sales;
- o through a combination of any such methods of sale; or
- o in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

The selling security holders may sell their shares directly to purchasers or may use brokers, dealers, underwriters or agents to sell their shares. Brokers or dealers engaged by the selling security holders may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate. Brokers or dealers may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling security holders, or, if any such broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser of shares, from the purchaser in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale. The compensation received by brokers or dealers may, but is not expected to, exceed that which is customary for the types of transactions involved. Broker-dealers may agree with a selling security holder to sell a specified number of shares at a stipulated price per share, and, to the extent the broker-dealer is unable to do so acting as agent for a selling security holder, to purchase as principal any unsold shares at the price required to fulfill the broker-dealer commitment to the selling security holder. Broker-dealers who acquire shares as principal may thereafter resell the shares from time to time in transactions, which may involve block transactions and sales to and through other broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise at prices and on terms then prevailing

12

at the time of sale, at prices then related to the then-current market price or in negotiated transactions. In connection with resales of the shares, broker-dealers may pay to or receive from the purchasers of shares commissions as described above.

The selling security holders and any broker-dealers or agents that participate with the selling security holders in the sale of the shares may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act. In that event, any commissions received by broker-dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act.

From time to time the selling security holders may engage in short sales,

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

short sales against the box, puts and calls and other hedging transactions in our securities, and may sell and deliver the shares in connection with such transactions or in settlement of securities loans. These transactions may be entered into with broker-dealers or other financial institutions. In addition, from time to time, a selling security holder may pledge its shares pursuant to the margin provisions of its customer agreements with its broker-dealer. Upon delivery of the shares or a default by a selling security holder, the broker-dealer or financial institution may offer and sell the pledged shares from time to time.

We have advised the selling security holders that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares in the market and to the activities of the selling security holders and their affiliates. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling security holders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

Upon our being notified by a selling security holder that any material arrangement has been entered into with a broker-dealer for the sale of the shares through a block trade, special offering, exchange distribution or secondary distribution or a purchase by a broker or dealer, a supplement to this prospectus will be filed, if required, pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act, disclosing:

- o the name of each such selling security holder and of the participating broker-dealer(s);
- o the number of shares involved;
- o the price at which such shares were sold;
- o any commissions paid or discounts or concessions allowed to such broker-dealer(s); and
- o other facts material to the transaction.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain jurisdictions the shares must be offered or sold only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain jurisdictions, the shares may not be offered or sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption is available and complied with.

### DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

We have authorized an unlimited number of common shares, no par value per share, and an unlimited number of shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. Our common shareholders are entitled to one vote per share on all matters on which holders of common shares are entitled to

vote and do not have any cumulative voting rights. Subject to the rights of holders of shares of any series of preferred stock, our common shareholders are entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare, out of legally available funds. Holders of common shares have no pre-emptive, conversion, redemption, subscription or similar rights. If Vista Gold were to be liquidated, dissolved or wound up, common shareholders would be entitled to share equally in any of our assets legally available for distribution after we satisfy any outstanding debts and other liabilities as well as any amounts that might be due to holders of preferred stock, if any.

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

Our shares of authorized preferred stock are undesignated. Our board or directors has authority, without seeking stockholder approval, to determine the designation, preferences, rights and other privileges for any series of preferred stock that the board of directors may designate, which could include preferences on liquidation or as to dividends, voting rights including the right to vote as a separate class on certain corporate events or to elect directors designated by the holders of such series, and rights to conversion or redemption of their shares and other matters. Our board of directors has not as of the date of this prospectus designated and issued any shares of our preferred stock.

We have no charter or by-law provisions that would delay, defer or prevent a change in control of Vista Gold.

### LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common shares being offered hereby has been passed upon for Vista Gold Corp. by Campion Macdonald of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada.

### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Vista Gold Corp. appearing in Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2001, have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are a reporting company and file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the public reference facilities the SEC maintains at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of such material by mail from the Public Reference Section of the SEC (450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549) at prescribed rates. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the operation of the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement contains more information than this prospectus regarding us and the securities, including certain exhibits and schedules. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement from the SEC at the above address or from the SEC's Internet site.

14

Our world wide web address is [www.vistagold.com](http://www.vistagold.com). We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this document. Our web address is included in this document as an inactive textual reference only.

### INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information contained in documents that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important



## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

information to you by referring you to those other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 prior to the sale of all the common shares covered by this prospectus:

- (1) Our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB (File No. 1-9025) for the year ended December 31, 2001 (subsequently amended; see (14) below);
- (2) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on January 23, 2002;
- (3) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on February 1, 2002;
- (4) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on March 20, 2002;
- (5) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on April 29, 2002;
- (6) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB (File No. 1-9025) for the quarter ended March 31, 2002;
- (7) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on May 22, 2002;
- (8) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on May 30, 2002;
- (9) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on June 17, 2002;
- (10) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on July 24, 2002;
- (11) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB (File No. 1-9025) for the quarter ended June 30, 2002;
- (12) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on August 30, 2002;
- (13) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on September 3, 2002;
- (14) Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-KSB (File No. 1-9025) for the year ended December 31, 2001 filed with the SEC on September 17, 2002;
- (15) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on September 20, 2002;
- (16) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on October 9, 2002, as amended and filed with the SEC as Form 8-K/A (File No. 1-9025) on October 31, 2002;

- (17) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on

## Edgar Filing: VISTA GOLD CORP - Form 424B3

November 6, 2002;

(18) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on November 8, 2002;

(19) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB (File No. 1-9025) for the quarter ended September 30, 2002;

(20) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on November 21, 2002;

(21) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on December 17, 2002;

(22) Our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on December 18, 2002;

(23) All our filings pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of filing the initial registration statement and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement; and

(24) The description of our common shares contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 1-9025) filed with the SEC on January 4, 1988, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating that description. For the most recent description, please see "Description of Capital Stock" in this prospectus.

You may request, orally or in writing, a copy of these documents, which will be provided to you at no cost, by contacting:

Vista Gold Corp.  
Suite 5, 7961 Shaffer Parkway  
Littleton, Colorado 80127  
Attention: John F. Engele, Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer  
(720) 981-1185

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, including information incorporated by reference as described above, or any supplement that we have referred you to. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents or that any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than its filing date. You should not consider this prospectus to be an offer or solicitation relating to the securities in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation relating to the securities is not authorized. Furthermore, you should not consider this prospectus to be an offer or solicitation relating to the securities if the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or if it is unlawful for you to receive such an offer or solicitation.