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Aiken, South Carolina is the heart of America's storied thoroughbred country, "The Winter Colony," where the cream of New York society once gathered in cold-weather months to continue their equestrian pursuits. No town in America features a more traditional or communal Thanksgiving celebration than Aiken, nor is there a more special place to enjoy it than at the town's 114-year old, beautifully refreshed and preserved hotel, The Willcox. The holiday is launched with a beloved custom signifying the start of the festive holiday season, the Blessing of The Hounds, and a traditional Thanksgiving buffet feast at the grandest white-pillared dame in South Carolina.

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