

SPECIAL
AUTUMN ISSUE

BLISS *Victoria*

DECORATING ~ ENTERPRISING WOMEN ~ TRAVELING ~ ENTERTAINING

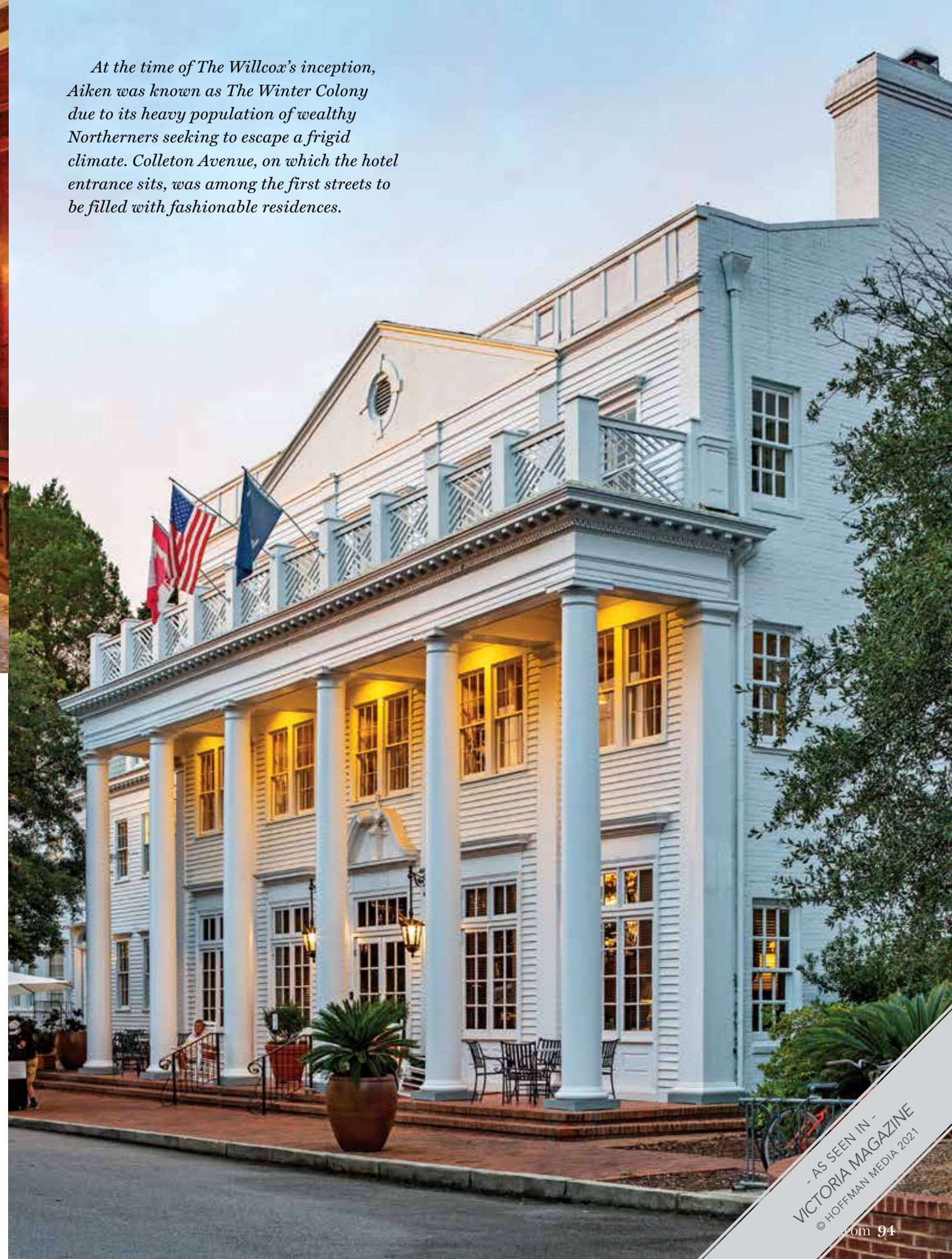
Autumnal Enchantments



THE COZIEST INTERIORS & BRILLIANT DÉCOR



At the time of The Willcox's inception, Aiken was known as The Winter Colony due to its heavy population of wealthy Northerners seeking to escape a frigid climate. Colleton Avenue, on which the hotel entrance sits, was among the first streets to be filled with fashionable residences.



A *Neighborly* HAVEN

Hospitality has defined The Willcox for more than a century, welcoming guests to Thoroughbred country with a relaxed sense of refinement.

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PHOTOGRAPHY MAC JAMIESON

Whether one was raised in the inviting embrace of a small town or merely indulged in its quiet warmth for a weekend getaway, the charm of these modest havens is undeniable. In historic Aiken, South Carolina, a quaint yet bustling burg known for its equestrian roots and approachable atmosphere,



Opposite: The award-winning restaurant offers seasonal menu items, available to the public as well as hotel guests, who may choose to indulge in the dining room, by the pool, on the porch, or in the lobby.



an alabaster façade rises up among the oaks and longleaf pines that shade the downtown streets. Its pillared porch, lined with oft-occupied rocking chairs, welcomes sojourners and locals alike, and through its doors lies “the living room of the community.”

The Willcox, an award-winning hotel, restaurant, and spa experience situated at the heart of this Southern hamlet, was founded in the late nineteenth century by English immigrant Frederick Sugden Willcox. First arriving in The Winter Colony to work at the Old Highland Park Hotel, he was encouraged by friends to open his own lodgings after his former place of employment was, unfortunately, destroyed in a fire. As demand for the new inn grew, he expanded it to its current footprint, which has today been respectfully refurbished by new owners Shannon and Geoffrey Ellis.

Much like the city itself, The Willcox boasts a rich history. Upon walking into the lobby, which was formerly the ballroom, guests can sense the stories that once took place within these walls. Yet, unlike many other destinations lauded for their past, The Willcox is still very much alive. Visitors and locals alike bustle about the bar to the sound of live music, creating memories and engaging with one another in an atmosphere that staff call “casually elegant.”

