

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

VOLUME VII 2018

Traveler

2018

READERS'
CHOICE
AWARDS





The porch at Millpond, with original Navajo rugs. To stay, contact the Wright Group, Thomasville.

Manners Matter More Than Ever

▼ In 1903, Jephth Wade II had an idea. His grandfather Jephth Wade I had founded Western Union, establishing the Wades as one of Ohio's most affluent families; now in the swing of his own success, J.W. II decided to find the family a place to gather when Cleveland winters got rough. Thomasville, Georgia, was already an established refuge for well-heeled Northerners, so he purchased the vast Millpond Plantation and ordered a 38,000-square-foot Mediterranean villa be built, a decision so bold that even a century later the property is wonderfully incongruous to the area (the plant-filled atrium, under a retractable pyramid skylight, looks more like Indonesia than Savannah). The mansion remains in the family, but when they aren't staying there? You can—with a full staff, a chef, and a seat on a mule-drawn wagon for the traditional quail hunt, as English pointers guide you through acres of live oaks.

The secret delight of Millpond, however, is Thomasville itself. In the Red Hills of Georgia on the Ochlockonee River, the town has three art galleries, an antiques market, and a folksy main street with a bookstore, a barber, and a cheese shop. We ate the best heirloom grits of our lives at the Paxton, and were reminded that, as always in this part of the country, manners matter. Who knew that the arrival of a new course should be a signal to change one's conversation partner? Now we do.

LOUIS CHESLAW